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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Are you in favor of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's plan to redefine public service and "reduce" government?

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to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Christian Uproar

The New Year's Day suicide bombing of a church that killed 21 people has opened up a vein of fury among Egypt's Christians.

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Hope in Africa

Dintle Zulu wanted something better for her only child than the worn classrooms, demoralized teachers and defiant students she had faced herself.

Campus Life...Page 17



Future on the Line

A doctor who had been hired for a dream job as Michael Jackson's highly paid private physician now has his reputation in tatters.

Life & Style...Page 20

Kilili to be sworn in today

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan will be sworn in today in the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Inset shows the two-term congressman's office at the Cannon House.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA



By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
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EDITOR

WASHINGTON D.C.—It's two days before the 112th Congress is officially sworn in and Cannon House is fairly humming with electricity, its warren of offices and tunnels a beehive of activity as the staff of old and new House members hustle to prepare the offices of their bosses.

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Gov't cuts cost, starting with payroll processing

»Payroll today for non-critical gov't employees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After overspending more than \$16 million in Fiscal Year 2010 and an estimated \$6 million shortfall in the first quarter of FY 2011, the Fitial administration wants to further cut costs this year starting with processing payroll through direct deposit and doing away with paper checks.

At the same time, non-critical government employees will be receiving today their paychecks that were supposed to be released on New Year's Eve.

The delayed paychecks were a result of severe government cash shortage.

"Payroll is set to be disbursed (today)," press secretary Angel Demapan said.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said the government can only "encourage" but not force employees who are still receiving their salaries through paper checks to open a bank account so they can avail of a direct deposit payroll.

For those who are switching to direct deposit effective pay period number 1 which ends on

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Fitial wants federalization law amended

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial wants the now Republican-dominated U.S. Congress to amend the federal law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control, so that taxes paid to federal agencies by Com-

monwealth employers and residents could be returned or "covered over" to the local government.

He said his administration is now awaiting the installation of the members of the 112th U.S. Congress, including CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, on Jan. 5 in Washington, D.C. (or Jan. 6 on Saipan).

The governor, who wants to go back to the CNMI Republican Party, said some provisions of U.S. Public Law 110-229 are "unnecessary and punitive."

These include an "amendment of the Covenant so as to require that the immigration and

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Fitial

28% increase in 2010 vehicle sales. **PAGE 2**
Senate OKs 26 additional FTEs for OAG. **PAGE 2**

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ENFORCE UNDERAGE DRINKING LAWS



21

**DO NOT PROVIDE ALCOHOL TO MINORS UNDER 21!
HELP KEEP OUR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SAFE!**

A message from the CNMI Youth Advisory Council and the Juvenile Justice Task Force.

Made possible by a grant from the US Department of Justice,

Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Local

28.36% increase in 2010 vehicle sales

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After hitting a historic low in 2009, CNMI vehicle sales jumped 28 percent in 2010 but still a dismal level compared to years prior to the economic recession.

The Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association reported yesterday that it sold 602 new cars, vans, trucks, and sport utility vehicles in 2010.

This is a 28.36-percent increase from 469 sold in 2009. But the 2009 figure marked the lowest annual vehicle sales in the CNMI in the 10 prior years.

From 2000 to 2008, annual vehicle sales ranged anywhere between 595 and 1,681.

While the 2010 figure posted an increase, the December sales figure alone saw an 11-percent decline compared to the same month the previous year.

In 2010, Microl Corp. topped the sales chart once again with 266 Toyotas, followed by Joeten Motors with 208 units sold, then Triple "J" Motors with 128.

The three dealers posted sales increases in 2010 compared to 2009.

Cars remained the vehicle of choice in 2010 with 275 new units sold, followed by SUVs with 201; trucks with 91; and vans with 35.

Toyota Corolla sold not only the most among cars, but among all vehicle types.

Among cars, Microl Corp. sold 63 Toyota Corollas and 46 Toyota Yaris in 2010, while Triple J Motors sold 41 Mazda3.

CADA also sold the following cars: 20 Toyota Camry; 15 Honda Civic; 12 Kia Soul; 11 Nissan Altima; 10 units each of Kia Forte and Mazda2; six

Hyundai Accent; five each of Hyundai Genesis Cp and Nissan Sentra; four each of Honda Accord and Hyundai Azera; three each of Ford Fusion, Nissan Cube and Nissan Maxima; two each of Ford Fiesta, Honda Fit, Hyundai Genesis Sd, Kia Rio and Toyota Prius; and one each of Ford Mustang, Mazda MX-5, Mazda RX8, and Nissan 370Z.

When it comes to SUVs, Nissan Rogue from Joeten Motors sold the most with 38 units in 2010, followed by Toyota RAV4 with 33 units sold, and Toyota 4Runner with 24 sold units.

The three-member CADA also sold these SUVs last year: 21 Hyundai Tucson; 17 Toyota Highlander; 12 Mazda CX7; nine each of Ford Escape, Honda CR-V and Suzuki G. Vitara; six Mazda CX9; five each of Kia Sportage and Toyota FJ Cruiser; three each of Hyundai Veracruz and Nissan Murano; two each of Nissan Pathfinder and Nissan XTerra; and one each of Honda Element, Honda Pilot and Nissan Juke.

Among trucks, Toyota Tacoma was the most saleable in 2010 with 42 sold units. Ford Ranger ranked second with 27 units sold, followed by Nissan Frontier with 18, then Mazda Pick-up with two; and one unit each of Ford F-150 and Nissan Titan.

Toyota Sienna topped the vans market with 14 sold units in 2010. It was followed by Ford E-Van with 12; Mazda5 with five units sold; and two units each of Honda Odyssey and Kia Sedona.

CADA also sold 279 used or secondhand vehicles in 2010, and 22 of those were sold in December alone.

Senate OKs 26 additional FTEs for OAG

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate approved on Thursday a request to have 26 additional full-time employees at the Office of the Attorney General and to hire employees deemed as "very critical" to the delivery of public services.

Of the 26 approved FTEs, 14 are required to cover displaced local immigration employees as a result of federalization.

OAG plans to obtain the 14 FTEs, and then transfer the employees to other government offices.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that technically, these 14 are not "additional" employees.

Senate Joint Resolution 17-5, introduced by Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), also calls for three FTEs to be able to hire

one assistant attorney general for the Criminal Division, and two assistant attorneys general for the Civil Division.

The remaining nine FTEs are required to implement a take-over of the responsibilities of representing agencies who currently obtain outside counsel "at a great cost to the CNMI."

Six of these FTEs are for attorneys, while three are for support staff.

The Fiscal Year 2011 budget law puts hiring restrictions on government agencies. Under the budget law, no vacancies will be filled except for critical and emergency positions.

If a new position or vacant position is necessary to be filled to protect public health, safety and welfare, agencies are required to request the Legislature to establish a new FTE by joint resolution under Section 602(b) of Public Law 17-21.

Gold's Gym encourages complete lifestyle change in 2011

» Offers tips and major points in making that healthy change

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Taking on a healthy lifestyle need not become just another New Year's resolution that goes unrealized throughout the year, according to the general manager of Gold's Gym Saipan.

"Ninety percent of those people that make New Year's resolutions fail to complete them by the end of the year," said Jackie Van Dam as she addressed the regular membership meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan at Giovanni's yesterday.

Van Dam encouraged Rotarians to make a complete lifestyle change rather than just having fitness and health as part of another unattainable New Year's resolution.

According to Van Dam, becoming more active was her New Year's resolution two years ago but started to fall under the 90-percent category.

She then joined Gold's Gym as a member in September



Van Dam

2009, working out and losing a total of 40 lbs which she has maintained since she enrolled in the gym.

Van Dam said there are helpful tips that can help someone who wants to make a healthy lifestyle change this 2011.

1. **Stick with it.** According to Van Dam, it takes 21 days to develop a habit such as going to the gym or playing sports. "The longer you do it, the more you want to do it, the more it becomes part of your lifestyle, it

becomes a habit," she said.

2. **Slowly eliminate things you know are not good for you.** Whether it's that extra piece of cake for dessert or a can of soda in the afternoon, Van Dam said people should learn to do away with unhealthy practices gradually, i.e. making it every other day instead of having it on a daily basis.

3. **Cheat a little.** Van Dam said that if you are able to eat healthy during the week, you can give yourself a reward or a little treat on weekends, like having a piece of cookie or a drink during dinner.

4. **Accountability.** The biggest and most helpful tip is having someone who can encourage you to make that healthy lifestyle change, be it a friend who can work out with you or a relative who can push you to eat healthy.

In changing to a healthy lifestyle, Van Dam said it is also important to take supplements like multivitamins. She said

supplements are tools that aid the body to produce and get the nutrients it needs for daily use.

Van Dam said doing at least 30 minutes of any cardiovascular activity is also a must as it helps build the heart. Walking your dog, running at the beach path, riding a bike, or taking a swim are only among these optimum exercises, she added.

Undergoing weight training and resistance is essential as it helps with bone density and muscle strength as a person gets older. "If we continue to maintain resistance or weight training, it strengthens our body and prolongs a healthy lifestyle," Van Dam explained.

Van Dam also said having proper nutrition by making healthy food choices such as whole grains, fruits, and vegetables is also a key to a healthy lifestyle.

She noted that a balance in all these things is needed to achieve that healthy body for 2011 and beyond.

Federal court orders to unseal documents, proceedings in driver's license scam case

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the CNMI has granted the motion to unseal all documents and proceedings on the case of Tahira Dolores S. Miah, who was charged last month in connection with the driver's license scam also involving her husband.

"Because the government states the need to seal the documents and proceedings in this case is no longer present, the government's motion is granted. All documents and proceedings are unsealed and will remain unsealed until further order of the court," stated the order which was released Monday.

The U.S. government filed in December a separate complaint against Tahira Dolores Miah, the wife of Mohammad Jahangir Miah—an auto shop owner who was earlier arrested by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents for his alleged involvement in the driver's license scam at the Department of Public Safety.

According to documents filed in the court, although Tahira Dolores Miah is cooperating with law enforcement a complaint against her was still filed.

Mr. Miah was arrested on charges of unlawful transfer of identification document on the afternoon of Dec. 12, 2010. The complaint against Mr. Miah was sealed originally as investigation was then ongoing.

Based on Immigration and Customs Enforcement report, it was on May 6, 2010 when

a cooperating source placed an unrecorded phone call to a Chinese female that is known to help foreign nationals obtain CNMI driver's licenses.

During the phone call, the cooperating source asked the Chinese female if she would help the cooperating source's friends obtain CNMI driver's licenses. On May 14, 2010, the cooperating source introduced a second cooperating source to the Chinese female. After their short conversation, Mr. Miah picked them up in a Toyota Corolla.

Mr. Miah then transported the Chinese female and the two cooperating sources from the restaurant to the DPS Bureau of Motor Vehicles in Susupe.

At BMV, Mr. Miah filled out the application for the second cooperating source with the help of the Chinese female. Mr. Miah told the Chinese female to have the second cooperating source sign it.

It was learned that the second cooperating source obtained a driver's license by providing a photocopy of his/her foreign passport to the Chinese female, signing a document, sitting for a photograph inside the BMV, and paying the Chinese female \$400.

The driver's license obtained by the second cooperating source indicated that the license was a "renewal" and that the second cooperating source had previously received a driver's license from Saipan.

Police said at no time did the second cooperating source

take an eye test, a written driver's test, or a driver's road test in order to obtain his/her driver's license.

The second cooperating source had also never previously received a driver's license on Saipan.

Police arrested Mr. Miah in July 2010 for allegedly stealing vehicles and falsifying their certificates of ownership. On Aug. 9, 2010, police arrested Mr. Miah and his wife on charges they stole a

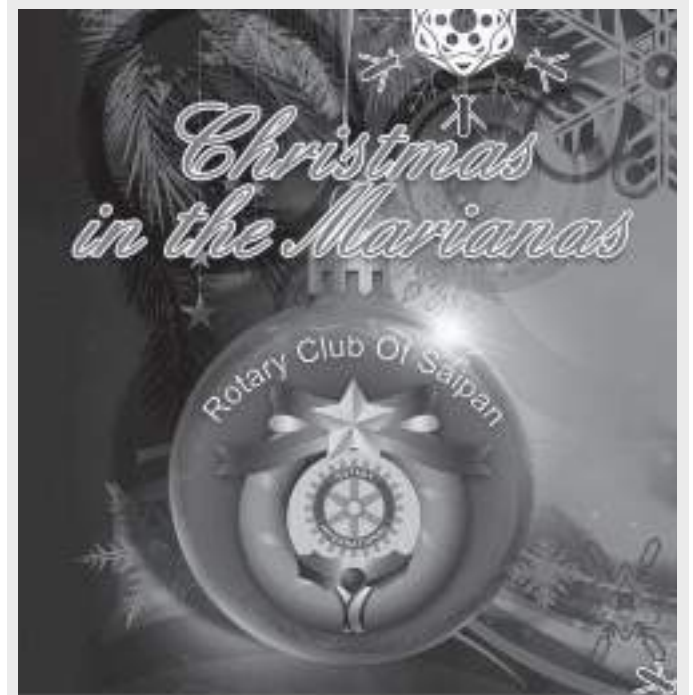
vehicle and falsified its certificate of ownership.

In late August 2010, the Superior Court dismissed the charges against the Miah couple in one case.

Police arrested Mr. Miah again in September 2010 on the same charges.

In 2006, the Superior Court sentenced Mr. Miah to three years in prison for forging CNMI Labor and Immigration documents to collect money from an alien worker.

1,800 copies of 'Christmas in the Marianas' distributed



By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Almost 1,800 copies of the *Christmas in the Marianas* CD have been distributed on- and off-island during the holidays.

Christmas in the Marianas is the first Christmas CD produced by the Saipan Rotary Club and it features 15 original and cover holiday songs in Chamorro, Carolinian, and English performed by local artists from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam.

The songs performed by artists from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were recorded on island while four artists recorded their songs in Guam.

A total of 2,000 copies of the CD were made in the Philippines and were available for

sale at \$15 each.

Rotary president Glen Perez told *Saipan Tribune* that the Christmas CD, which was the brainchild of Rotarian Perry Inos, was well-received in the community.

"We hope that all CDs that were distributed have been purchased," said Perez.

According to Perez, purchase of the Christmas CD is a 'community reinvestment' as the proceeds will benefit the community in the form of scholarship programs and other community projects such as children's playground.

Perez noted that all unsold copies of *Christmas in the Marianas* will be sold again to the public next holiday season since Rotary has the rights to the CD.



PIZZA

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Military officials visit CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gen. Duane D. Thiessen, commanding general for Programs and Resources of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, visited the CNMI for the first time yesterday and met with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and other local officials.

Thiessen, who assumed the post in September to replace Lt. Gen. Keith Stalder, was accompanied by 10 other U.S. military officials.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said the close-door meeting at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan was a "simple meet-and-greet with CNMI leadership."

Demapan, who was among those who met with the visiting group, said this is Thiessen's first time out here. He said he came here for a familiarization tour.

CNMI Military Integration Management Committee coordinator Tom Linden and acting Commerce secretary Sixto Igisomar joined Inos and Demapan for the meeting.

After briefly visiting Saipan from Guam aboard two helicopters, Thiessen and the rest of the group also went to Tinian.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and Don Farrell met the group at the Tinian bomb pits.

They also went on a brief tour of the historic North Field, then the site chosen for the rifle ranges, and finally the Tinian

Harbor before leaving from the West Field airport yesterday afternoon.

In line with the U.S. military buildup in the region, the Department of Defense will be constructing four live-fire training ranges on Tinian beginning in 2013 or 2014.

Once built on Tinian, they will be the largest live-fire training ranges this side of the region, although the size itself is small compared to other ranges of their kind in other areas.

Some Japanese lawmakers are also pushing for the relocation of up to 4,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Tinian but the decision rests with the U.S. government whether to allow such relocation.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, and Lt. Gen. Duane D. Thiessen, commanding general for Programs and Resources of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, pose during a break in their brief, close-door meeting yesterday.

KILILI

From Page 1

The office of CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan on the fourth floor of Cannon House seems calm by comparison, possibly because they did not have to move to a new office space. As a second-term, Sablan gets to keep his office space and, with many new House members coming in on Wednesday, Sablan's staff can't be faulted for thinking themselves old hands, already adept at getting around the maze-like hallways of the

Capitol and miles past the awe that newcomers inevitably feel about working in Congress.

Chai Cruz, Sablan's office manager and scheduler, said that what's keeping their nine-man office busy in the run-up to Wednesday is the Open House that they will be hosting on that day, starting from 11:30am to 4pm.

"We've invited constituents to come in and see the office, sort of like celebrate the start of the 112th Congress with us," said Cruz. "Wednesday is going to be a pretty busy day for us."

She said invitations were sent out three weeks ago to all of Sa-

blan's constituents in the Washington, D.C. area and even as far as New York and Virginia. The event was also announced in Sablan's e-newsletter a week ago.

"It's just a way for people to walk in and see their office and meet the representative. Most of the constituents in the area he's met before and they're very familiar with him," she said.

The entire Congress itself will have its swearing in at noon, with House of Representatives members sworn in at the storied 154-year-old chamber. Each member will be allowed one guest, mostly spouses; Cruz

said that Sablan will have his wife, Andrea, there.

At 4:15pm, there will be a ceremonial swearing in at the Rayburn Room of the Capitol. "That is where the Speaker will...individually swear in each member and take a photo with them," Cruz said.

Each House member is allowed to bring in up to 10 guests for the ceremonial swearing in. Cruz said that Sablan has already invited some people to join him at this event and among those that have confirmed their attendance are Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco Mar-

atita, Committee-to-Elect-Kilili chair Ray Dela Cruz, and Gerald and Vicky Calvo from Rota, in addition to Sablan's wife and daughter Patricia.

"And then we're still adding to the list because we had invited others, like, legislative members but they could not make it, so we don't have a final list yet and the congressman is still working on that," she said.

The list of invited guests will be finalized early Tuesday (Wednesday on Saipan) and it will then be submitted to the office of Speaker-designate John Boehner (R-Ohio).

Other than that, preparing for the big day entails the more mundane issue of shopping for the food that will be served at the Open House, paper products for the office, and possibly flowers to make the day extra special.

Still, it's not everyday that one gets to work for another two years on Capitol and Sablan's chief of staff, Robert J. Schwalbach, acknowledges that it's "pretty exciting for all of us."

"We're all grateful to be here because they [constituents] like the job that Kilili is doing for them," he said.

FITIAL

From Page 1

naturalization fees by Commonwealth employers and residents to the federal government would not be returned to the CNMI government." He said this is unlike Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"I do not see why the Commonwealth was treated in this

discriminatory manner by Congress," Fitial said in his written Dec. 30 State of the Commonwealth report to the CNMI Legislature.

Besides amending the federalization law, the governor also called for other legislative relief needed to bolster the local economy.

The governor, who returned from Guam yesterday morning, said this provision was

added to the House version of the bill that became PL 110-229 "long after all the congressional hearings were held and no one in the Commonwealth had a chance to protest this amendment until both Houses had acted on the proposed legislation."

PL 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act was signed into law in May 2008, and took effect on Nov.

28, 2009.

Fitial, in his May and September 2010 testimony in U.S. Congress, asked a subcommittee to consider three amendments to the CNRA: 1. Repeal of the elimination of the Covenant's cover-over provision relating to immigration and naturalization fees paid in the CNMI; extend the period of time for umbrella permits to remain in force, from two years to four years;

and extend the transition period from the end of 2014 to the end of 2019.

"Cover over" refers to the return to local governments of taxes paid to federal agencies by residents of insular areas.

He had said without "cover over," the CNMI is denied "tens of millions of dollars over time—and places the full financial burden of applying the immigration laws on the

Commonwealth and its residents rather than assumed by the nation as a whole whose national security was believed to require this congressional action."

The governor said in December he would like to meet with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano early this year. So far, there's no schedule for such trip in Washington, D.C.

GOVT

From Page 1

Jan. 1, 2011, they are encouraged to submit to Finance's Payroll Section the name of a bank within the CNMI where they have a savings or checking account and provide their account number.

Some 80 percent of government employees have been on direct deposit payroll, while the other 20 percent get paper checks.

Inos, when he was acting governor on Monday, concurred with acting Finance secretary Connie Agulto's memo to streamline the payroll processing.

Agulto said the current system of processing payroll—both through direct deposit and paper checks—is "labor intensive and costly" for the CNMI government.

"In continuing our efforts to reduce government expenditures, payroll processing costs have been reviewed and determination has been made



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, second from right, meets with lawmakers to re-strengthen ties between the Fitial administration and the Legislature, in the conference room of Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) late yesterday afternoon. From left, Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), Manglona, Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), Inos, and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

that related expenses can be reduced by streamlining our payroll process into a one-track, direct deposit system and by reducing the number of allottees/allotments that

Payroll Section must process payments for each payday," Agulto said in a two-page memo concurred by Inos, who is also a former Finance secretary.

Cutting allotments

Besides doing away with paper checks, Agulto also started limiting the type of allotments that Finance's Payroll Section must process payments during each

payday to also cut costs.

Effective Jan. 1, 2011, the types of allotment categories to be honored by Payroll will be limited to six types.

These include life insurance

companies, health insurance companies, Commonwealth Credit Union, garnishments such as student loans and tax levies, child support deductions, and government deductions such as for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Nutrition Assistance Program, Commonwealth Development Authority, and Commonwealth Health Center.

Agulto said all other allotments that were previously processed that are not in any of these categories will be automatically terminated.

"Please take note that if your allottee category is not listed above, you will be responsible for making direct payments to your allottees," Agulto told government employees.

The acting Finance secretary also called on all government employees to file a new W-4 form by Jan. 7, Friday, to update their employment records.

She said timekeepers in each department are responsible for issuing the forms and submitting them to Finance and Accounting.

ARRA, CDBG projects of NMHC under way

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. is already making progress with the five approved projects to be funded by the Community Development Block Grant for program year 2010.

Administered by the NMHC, the CDBG program is a flexible program under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs.

The program, which began in 1974, is one of the longest continuously run programs at HUD.

The projects and their respective shares are:

- \$150,000 for the architectural and engineering design for the Tinian Fire Station;

- \$100,000 for the purchase of fire protection and life-saving equipment for the Tinian Fire Station;

Court imposes \$25K bail for Kagman burglar

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$25,000 bail for the temporary liberty of Ian Dela Cruz, who was charged with robbery and theft charges.

Dela Cruz, 27, was apprehended by police on New Year's Day and he appeared in court Monday for his bail hearing.

Judge Wiseman has set the preliminary hearing for his case on Jan. 11 at 1:30pm while Dela Cruz is scheduled for arraignment on Jan. 18 at 9am.

Water supplied by Navy in Guam is safe to drink

High levels of iron and manganese in water originating from the Fena Reservoir have caused a brownish tint in the drinking water supplied to U.S. Navy housing residents, and Guam Waterworks Authority customers in parts of central and southern Guam.

The water is safe to drink and continues to meet guidelines set forth by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

Iron and manganese are naturally occurring elements that only affect the aesthetic quality of the water.

The Navy has initiated treatment procedures to remove these elements and to return the water to its normal appearance.

Noticeable improvement in water clarity should be apparent within two days, and normal water conditions are anticipated within seven days.

The high levels of iron and manganese were caused by planned maintenance on the system at the Fena Reservoir. (PR)

- \$372,348 for the rehabilitation of Sinapalo Children's Park on Rota;

- \$30,000 for the rehabilitation of the Oleai Sports Complex softball fencing; and

- \$50,000 for the rehabilitation of Dandan Children's Park.

Technical coordinator Clemen Sablan said that the invitation for bid for the Sinapalo Children's Park revitalization and enhancement project was issued in December.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that they received a total of three responsive bids for the project, two of which were from Rota and one from Saipan.

According to Sablan, they already identified the most responsive bidder which will then be required to submit certain requirements to determine their ability to complete the project.

Aside from the children's park, Sablan said they will issue within two weeks the bid package for the rehabilitation of the

Oleai Sports Complex.

Sablan said that in addition to CDBG projects, those funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are also under way.

The technical coordinator said they will also be releasing soon the bid package for the third phase or the project construction phase of the Kios-ku project in Chalan Kanoa.

The Kios-ku or the Leadership Memorial Courtyard is part of the revitalization and enhancement efforts of the Saipan Municipal Council to revive the area as a center of commerce and social activities on the island.

The courtyard will include the names of elected and appointed leaders on Saipan during the period of the CNMI's political status as a U.S. commonwealth.

Sablan added that the construction for the Sinapalo Elementary School roof rehabilitation project has already begun as well.

According to court documents, detective Melissa Bauléong said DPS received a call from Bianca Blanco about a burglary and theft incident at her residence in Kagman III on Dec. 30, 2010, at about 1:18pm. While on their way to respond, Police Officers Adrian Mendiola and Murphy Paul saw a man that fit the description of the suspect.

The man, later identified as Dela Cruz, was wearing a T-shirt and basketball shorts, and was allegedly carrying a bush-cutter. The suspect, who ran when he saw the police officers, was later arrested.

Dela Cruz allegedly broke into the storage room of the victim's house and stole the bush-cutter, the police later found.

Dela Cruz has previous police records. In July 2005 he pleaded guilty to a theft charge and was sentenced to a three-year prison term after stealing from DFS Galleria and Joeten Enterprises.

In October 2003, he was also sentenced to one year incarceration, all suspended for time already served, after he admitted receiving stolen dog.

In February 2003, Dela Cruz also pleaded guilty to the charge of unlawful taking in a separate case. The court sentenced him to two years imprisonment, all suspended except for seven days with credit for the seven days he had already served for this specific case. He was also placed on supervised probation.

Saipan, Tinian and Rota!

Join us this SATURDAY morning, JANUARY 8, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!

LIVE HEALTHY:

Life Walk with PSS.

Registration Information:

Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Kagman Elementary School

Tinian: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Tachog'na Beach

Rota: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Téteto Beach



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Statewide Independent Living Council "Yes I Can!"

P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 95950; TEL: (670) 322-6538 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2011 First General Membership Meeting on Thursday, January 6, 2011 at the Chamolinian Room, Hyatt at 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Roll Call
 - II. Adoption of Agenda
 - III. Adoption of 03/31/10 Minutes
 - IV. Reports
 - Chair
 - OVR Director
 - CLI Director
 - V. Old Business
 - Needs Assessment
 - 2011 IL State Plan
 - Membership Status
 - VI. New Business
 - 2011 Resource Plan
 - Members Training
 - Consumers Internship
 - VII. Miscellaneous
 - VIII. Announcements
 - IX. Adjournment
- /s/ **Stephen Dutro**
SILC Chairperson

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).



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Supreme Court upholds conviction of man who molested minor



MARINES IN ACTION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Recruit Dennis O. Ngirchongor, Platoon 3227, Company K, helps another recruit put on his gear in preparation for the body sparring event at the Crucible last Dec. 1. The recruits wear protective gear during sparring exercises to help prevent injuries. Inset, Ngirchongor adjusts his gear as he finishes refilling his canteens at the water station. There are water stations scattered throughout the Crucible so that the recruits have a steady supply of water during the three-day exercise.



By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court upheld the conviction of Aktar Hossain who was found guilty of sexual assault in the second degree, sexual assault of a minor in the second degree, and for disturbing the peace.

The court issued its unanimous ruling last Friday. Hossain's case arose in June of 2003 when the minor daughter of one of Hossain's friends told police that the defendant molested her. After an investigation, Hossain was charged with eight counts, including two counts each of sexual assault, sexual assault of a minor in the second degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The jury found Hossain guilty of all four sexual assault charges, and the trial judge convicted Hossain on one count of disturbing the peace. The Superior Court later granted Hossain's motion for judgment of acquittal on one count of sexual assault and one count of sexual assault of a minor in the second degree, leaving Hossain with

three convictions.

Hossain then appealed his three remaining convictions to the Supreme Court, arguing that the court had made several mistakes during his trial.

Hossain argued that the court made four mistakes when it denied his motion requesting that the judge conduct a private review of the victim's school records; the court should have allowed Abu Munshi to testify at trial; the court improperly admitted evidence to establish Hossain's date of birth; and the assistant attorney general failed to correct a witness who lied while testifying at Hossain's trial and that she also made improper remarks to the jury during closing arguments.

Hossain also claimed that he had a constitutional right to have the Superior Court review the victim's school records in private. The Superior Court refused to examine the school records, stating that Hossain failed to show that the school records were necessary or relevant to his case. The Supreme Court disagreed with the Superior Court's reason for not con-

ducting private review of the victim's school records, but ultimately found that the mistake was harmless because Hossain's request for private review was very general and amounted to a fishing expedition.

The Superior Court also found that Hossain's three other arguments were lacking. First, the Superior Court properly excluded Abu Munshi's testimony because that testimony would have duplicated testimony already given at trial and might have confused the jury.

Second, Hossain testified to his age at trial, and that regardless of any improperly admitted evidence, this was enough to establish his age.

Finally, Hossain argued that the assistant attorney general had allowed a witness to lie on the witness stand and had made improper comments during closing arguments. The Supreme Court held that the record on appeal was insufficient to support any claims that a witness had lied or that the assistant attorney general had made improper remarks to the jury.

Vendor gets 7-day jail term, \$100 fine for selling alcohol to minor

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge Perry Inos handed down a seven-day jail term and a \$100 fine to a vendor who sold alcohol to a minor.

This after Li Wu Pua entered a guilty plea to the offense of selling alcohol to underage person who is not in immediate possession of an identification card.

Besides the short imprisonment and minimal fine, the defendant was also placed on supervised probation for one year and was ordered to pay probation fees, the amount of which will be assessed by the office of adult probation.

Pua is also ordered to pay court assessment fee of \$25 and write a one-page letter explaining how selling alcohol to minors is harmful.

The court set a review hearing for Pua's case on March 16, 2011 at 9am.

Saipan Tribune learned that Pua sold alcoholic beverages to a minor person on or about April 20, 2010.

It was on Oct. 13 when the defendant was charged of count III: selling alcohol to underage person which is selling an alcoholic beverage to a person below 21 years old; and count IV: selling of alcohol to underage person who is not in immediate possession of an identification card.

Because of the defendant's admission to the last offense, the court dismissed with prejudice the charge of count III.

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By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos yesterday ruled that Julian Fitial should remain in the custody of the Department of Corrections until no bail was posted for his temporary liberty.

Fitial, 24, was charged with

Man who hit girlfriend still in jail

» After failing to post bail

slated the preliminary hearing on Jan. 12 at 9am. For his arraignment, Fitial is set to appear in court on the morning of

Jan. 18.

Court records showed that Fitial, who was drinking liquor since the morning of Jan. 2, attended a gathering at a friend's house with his girlfriend. At approximately 12 midnight, the couple left the event in

their Honda CRV driven by Jack. When they reached the Chalan Kiya traffic light, Fitial allegedly started acting badly, refusing to put his seatbelt and tried to flick off the police in the area.

On their way home to Dandan, Fitial was said to have grabbed the steering wheel from Jack who lost control of

the vehicle that swerved into the opposite lane.

Jack managed to control the car after the incident but allegedly received punches on her arms while driving. The argument continued as they reached home resulting in Fitial breaking their television set and continuously grabbing Jack and hitting her.

Jack managed to get out of the room and called police for help.

Fitial appeared yesterday in court for his bail hearing.

Mayor: Early preps for LibDay this year

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Preparations for this year's Fourth of July festivities will begin early, according to Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores.

"We're going to start planning and arrangements for the 2011 Liberation Day celebration as early as January," he said in an interview.

Flores disclosed that he

would retain the Liberation committee that he appointed for last year's celebration, reappointing Jonas M. Barcinas to the position of overall Liberation chair.



Flores

The mayor said he already informed Barcinas about the reappointment and the early planning. "He's very enthused to start early," he said.

Aside from last year's committee members, Flores said he plans to add

more volunteers in the group that would provide assistance during the much awaited Fourth of July celebration.

According to Flores, early planning is essential for them due to funding concerns.

"We need to do it as early as possible to request for necessary funding and come up with ideas to raise money for the celebration," he explained.

Flores added that they plan to start discussions on possible fundraising activities when the committee meets this month.

DEQ Cleanup Brigade at COP Beach this Saturday

Due to the New Year falling on the first Saturday, the Division of Environmental Quality monthly cleanup brigade has been moved to the second Saturday at Coral Ocean Point Beach in Koblerville.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify the island, please meet the DEQ representative on Saturday, Jan. 8, 8am at the COP Beach parking lot.

Volunteers will split into groups and clean east and west until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade T-shirt.

"This is a cleanup that should

not be missed, so join DEQ's cleanup brigade and 'Pick It Up!' Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy," the agency said.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. (PR)



STAFF PARTY

▲ Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino Broadway Restaurant manager Geoffrey Garcia, fifth from left, hosted a staff get-together party last Dec. 23.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

◀ Happy first-year wedding anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Oscar and Lillian Angui. Hope you enjoy your special day. From the Onio's and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Santos.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Belated birthday to Vinnae Babauta. Hope you enjoyed your day and we wish you many more wonderful birthdays to come. We love you. Greeting from the Sablan family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated first birthday to Kayven Xane King Cruz, who celebrated his birthday on Jan. 3. Hope you enjoyed your day. We love you so much and God bless. Love Mommy, Daddy, and the rest of the family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy advanced birthday to Glen Ayuyu. May you have a wonderful day and have lots of fun. We love you. Greeting from your Sablan family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 7th birthday Zachery Manalo from Onio's and Mr & Mrs Joe Santos.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Ruka Timil-sina. She is celebrating her birthday today in San Antonio. Many birthdays to come from your friends who wish you only the best. Greeting from a friend.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Celia Cabrera. Enjoy your day and may all your birthday be enjoyable. We love you always. Greeting from your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and the rest of the family.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SPRINGLEAF	014E	12/25 Sat	12/23 Thu	12/23 Thu	12/21 Tue	12/18 Sat	12/31 Fri	12/27 Mon	12/26 Sun	12/19 Sun	12/19 Sun	12/27 Mon	12/31 Fri	1/2 Sun	1/4 Tue
MELL SILOSO	015E	1/1 Sat	12/30 Thu	12/30 Thu	12/28 Tue	12/25 Sat	1/7 Fri	1/3 Mon	1/2 Sun	12/26 Sun	12/26 Sun	1/3 Mon	1/7 Fri	1/9 Sun	1/11 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	049E	1/8 Sat	1/6 Thu	1/6 Thu	1/4 Tue	1/1 Sat	1/14 Fri	1/10 Mon	1/9 Sun	1/2 Sun	1/2 Sun	1/10 Mon	1/14 Fri	1/16 Sun	1/18 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	015E	1/15 Sat	1/13 Thu	1/13 Thu	1/11 Tue	1/8 Sat	1/21 Fri	1/17 Mon	1/16 Sun	1/9 Sun	1/9 Sun	1/17 Mon	1/21 Fri	1/23 Sun	1/25 Tue
MELL SILOSO	016E	1/22 Sat	1/20 Thu	1/20 Thu	1/18 Tue	1/15 Sat	1/28 Fri	1/24 Mon	1/23 Sun	1/16 Sun	1/16 Sun	1/24 Mon	1/28 Fri	1/30 Sun	2/1 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	050E	1/29 Sat	1/27 Thu	1/27 Thu	1/25 Tue	1/22 Sat	2/4 Fri	1/31 Mon	1/30 Sun	1/23 Sun	1/23 Sun	1/31 Mon	2/4 Fri	2/6 Sun	2/8 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SPRINGLEAF	014E	1/8 Sat	1/9 Sun	1/9 Sun	1/11 Mon	1/12 Wed	1/14 Fri	1/16 Sun	SKIP	1/21 Fri	1/22 Sat	1/27 Thu	2/15 Tue	1/30 Sun
MELL SILOSO	015E	1/15 Sat	1/16 Sun	1/16 Sun	SKIP	1/19 Wed	1/21 Fri	1/23 Sun	SKIP	1/28 Fri	1/29 Sat	2/3 Thu	2/22 Tue	2/6 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	049E	1/22 Sat	1/23 Sun	1/23 Sun	1/25 Mon	1/26 Wed	1/28 Fri	1/30 Sun	SKIP	2/4 Fri	2/5 Sat	2/10 Thu	3/1 Tue	2/13 Sun
MELL SPRINGLEAF	015E	1/29 Sat	1/30 Sun	1/30 Sun	SKIP	2/2 Wed	2/4 Fri	2/6 Sun	SKIP	2/11 Fri	2/12 Sat	2/17 Thu	3/8 Tue	2/20 Sun
MELL SILOSO	016E	2/5 Sat	2/6 Sun	2/6 Sun	2/6 Sat	2/9 Wed	2/11 Fri	2/13 Sun	SKIP	2/18 Fri	2/19 Sat	2/24 Thu	3/15 Tue	2/27 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	050E	2/12 Sat	2/13 Sun	2/13 Sun	SKIP	2/16 Wed	2/18 Fri	2/20 Sun	SKIP	2/25 Fri	2/26 Sat	3/3 Thu	3/22 Tue	3/6 Sun

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NMC English, and Math placement test schedule set

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting the English and Math placement tests on the following dates:

English Placement Test Schedule

Jan. 5	Wed.	9am-3pm	Building M
Jan. 6	Thu.	9am-3pm	Building M
		4pm-7pm	Building M
Jan. 7	Fri.	9am-3pm	Building M
Jan. 10-12	Mon.- Wed.	9am-3pm	Building M
Jan. 13	Thu.	9am-3pm	Building M
		4pm-7pm	Building M
Jan. 14	Fri.	9am-3pm	Building M

Math Placement Test Schedule

Jan. 6	Thu.	10am-12pm	Room A-7
		5pm-7pm	Room A-7
Jan. 11	Tue.	10am-12pm	Room A-7
		5pm-7pm	Room A-7
Jan. 13	Thu.	10am-12pm	Room A-7
		5pm-7pm	Room A-7

Those who wish to take courses at NMC must take the placement tests. Registration for NMC's Spring 2011 semester will begin on Monday, Jan. 10, 2010.

There is a \$25 fee for each placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 8:30am-4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee, or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee. If you have a placement test fee waiver, students must obtain a placement test slip from the Office of Admissions and Records prior to taking the test.

Test takers must also bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the English placement test are strongly encouraged to contact the Language and Humanities Department to schedule an appointment. "Walk-in" test takers will be accommodated based on seat availability. The average time to complete the English placement test is between 1.5 and 2.5 hours.

To schedule an appointment to take the English placement test or for more information, please contact Jim Kline at 234-5498 Ext. 2017, Tom Colton at 234-5498 Ext. 2009, or Elsie Skang-Ngewakl at Ext. 2014.

Calculators may be used when taking the math placement test. NMC students are not allowed to take the math placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for NMC students who have NOT taken a math class within one year of taking the math placement test.

If you have any questions about the math placement test, call the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1200 or 1212.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the Spring 2010 semester, log on to www.nm-cnet.edu. (PR)

NMC to host student orientation for resident, international students

The Northern Marianas College will be hosting an orientation for all new and ongoing NMC students tomorrow, Jan. 6, from 9am to 12pm at the NMC Student Center in Building J.

The orientation will inform students about the various programs, services and resources available at the college. It will feature representatives from the different programs and offices of the Student Services division, such as Counseling and Disability Support, Career Services,

Financial Aid, and Learning Communities. Information about the registration process for the Spring 2011 semester will also be shared.

The orientation will also feature a campus tour and lunch provided by the Associated Students NMC and the College Access Challenge Project.

For more information, contact NMC Outreach counselor Zenaida Javier at 234-5498 ext. 1343 or visit www.nmc-net.edu. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Cervical cancer awareness topic in John Gonzales Live

Cervical cancer awareness in the CNMI and HPV campaign coming to junior high and high schools in the Commonwealth will be the topic in today's *John Gonzales Live* radio program.

Guests for today's program include Dr. Jean-Olivia Grant, program staff Fernando Benavente, HPV Campaign Committee's Kimberly Sablan, Commonwealth Cancer Coalition representative Robert T. Torres, and teenage consumer Peachy Rasa.

John Gonzales Live airs every Wednesday and rebroadcast on Sunday and Monday from 7pm to 8 pm on KSPN 2.

Text 285-META (6382), email john-gonzales@pticom.com, call 287-4230 for your question or comment. (PR)

OES PTSA meeting on Jan. 11

The Oleai Elementary School PTSA will have a meeting on Jan. 11 beginning at 6pm at the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend the meeting. (PR)

NMC CREES on Marianas Agupa for Saturday's Radio Talk Show

This Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011, *Marianas Agupa* will feature Michael M. Ogo, aquaculture specialist, along with Jack Ogomoro, coordinator of the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council.

The show starts at 10am and airs until 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be on upcoming aquaculture symposium and other CREES sponsored events this year.

The *Chamorro Talk Show* program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Featured reports are as follows: World report by former mayor Joseph S. Inos followed by special report from Rota with correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola from Rota and a report from Tinian

by correspondent and radio commentator with former Senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (PR)

Veterans Outreach set for Jan. 10-13

Department of Veterans Affairs legal administrative specialist for Guam and the CNMI, Tina San Augustine, will visit Saipan and Tinian for Veterans Outreach on Veterans Federal Benefits.

San Augustine will be available to answer questions and assist with claims. The date, time, and place of her visit are as follows:

■ Saipan: Jan. 12-13 0830 to 1630 at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs on Capital Hill/Building 1363.

■ Tinian: Jan. 12-13 0830 to 1630 at the Tinian Municipal Council's Office.

If you wish to make an appointment or for further information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. (PR)

NMC spring 2011 registration schedule

The Northern Marianas College announced that registration for the upcoming spring 2011 semester will be ongoing from Jan. 10 to Jan. 15, 2011. Students can register on the day designated for their PowerCampus ID number. New students can begin registering on Jan. 12, 2011.

■ Jan. 10: Registration for students with PC No. 000000100 through 000010350

■ Jan. 11: Registration for students with PC No. 000010351 through 000013150

■ Jan. 12: Registration for students with PC No. 000013151 through 000014950

■ Jan. 13: Registration for all new, ongoing, and readmitted students

■ Jan. 14: Registration for all new, ongoing, and readmitted students

■ Jan. 15: Late registration

Students may register between 9am and 6pm, Monday through Friday, and be-

tween 9am and 12pm on Saturday.

For more information or inquiries, visit the NMC Office of Admissions and Records or call 234-5498 ext. 1528/1537. (NMC)

Art of Marriage Conference

Is your marriage on the rocks or do you have a great marriage? Either way, you are invited to attend The Art of Marriage Conference at Saipan Community Church on Feb. 11-12. The cost is \$35 per couple for the materials. Pre-married couples may also attend. There is only room for 25 couples. If you would like to reserve your space a \$20 deposit is required or you can pay the full amount. Contact Jill at 483-7245 or e-mail only1jillc@yahoo.com. For more information you can visit www.familylife.com/theartofmarriage. (PR)

PH Consulate to offer Saturday, Sunday services in 2011

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan plans to continue its One-Sunday-A-Month Consular services, with an additional plan of alternating Saturday services for 2011.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said this is due to the number of Filipinos in the CNMI who have availed of these weekend consular services.

The Philippine Consulate General will have the following weekend schedule for the first six months of 2011:

■ January 30, Sunday

■ February 26, Saturday

■ March 20, Sunday

■ April 16, Saturday

■ May 22, Sunday

■ June 25, Saturday

The office will be open to provide consular services and it will observe its usual office hours from 9am to 4pm without lunch breaks.

For inquiries on any consular service, contact the Philippine Consulate General at 234-1850, fax 234-1849 or email saipanpcg@pticom.com. (PR)



Jan. 5, 1999

US insists on steering CNMI rudder on labor

President Bill Clinton has said the existing situation in the Northern Marianas does not guarantee protection of workers' rights provided under federal laws and pressed local officials to establish policies that will address the problem. The US leader strongly proposed to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio that his administration agrees with the National Labor Relations Board on the commonwealth's treatment of collective bargaining agreements, employees covered by the NLRB-filed charges and reinstatement remedies in settlements approved by the federal agency and ordered by courts. Clinton underscored the need to establish clear policies along this line because "the current situation does not ensure adequate protection of workers' rights under federal law."

EAG eligibility issue resolved

The Northern Marianas College board voted to include high school students under the Education Assistance Grant to resolve questions over their eligibility to receive the grant. The board's action followed the advise of acting Attorney General Maya Kara that NMC adopt a policy regarding EAG eligibility. NMC President Agnes McPhetres said Kara had promised to support the policy. NMC is set to convey the policy to the Department of Finance, said Jesus Borja, NMC legal counsel. But while this policy will resolve the eligibility issue, questions are raised over the qualifications of the high school students enrolled at the Northern Marianas Academy.

Jan. 5, 2001

House ponders changes on labor bill

The House Commerce and Tourism Committee is preparing amendments to legislation that is patterned after the U.S. Fair Labor Standards Act before regular sessions resume by the end of this month. This will be one of key priority measures which the leadership in the lower house is expected to push, according to House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta. The committee met the other day to discuss changes to the bill sponsored by House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial who has earlier instructed them to hasten review of the proposal.

Study: Japanese unaware of Rota, Tinian as destinations

A marketing study conducted by a Japanese firm revealed that only 39.2 percent of the 1,000 Japanese surveyed are aware of the existence of Rota as a destination and only 3.6 percent have been there for a visit. At the same time, only 20 percent of the 1,000 Japanese respondents are aware of Tinian as a destination in the CNMI while only less than one percent have visited the island. Tokyo-based marketing firm K.K. Creative Assist has emphasized the importance of creating an awareness campaign to increase the visitor arrivals on the two destinations.

Jan. 5, 2003

MPLA outlines procedures on land compensation payments

To ensure fast processing of claims, the Marianas Public Lands Authority called on claimants to complete their documentation based on the newly approved rules and regulations on land compensation claims. The rules, among others, require that all private property acquired by the Commonwealth must be certified, declared or determined for acquisition by the Governor. This certification must include boundary surveys and/or legal description, and identification of encumbrances and disputes, if any. Applicants must present evidence of clear title, which may include a preliminary title report verifying that "he or she has unencumbered title to the land to be monetarily compensated whenever there is insufficient title evidence as to his/her ownership of the land in question."

Federal disaster aid for NMI expanded

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has amended the major declaration for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to include all categories under the Public Assistance Program, according to an announcement by FEMA Director Joe M. Allbaugh. Public Assistance reimbursement funds for emergency protective measures and debris removal costs were authorized under the Dec. 11 Presidential disaster declaration. These included emergency protective services such as rescue operations, police and firefighter evacuations, providing shelters and emergency care, provisions such as food, water, ice and other essential needs, medicine, and removal of health and safety hazards. The expanded declaration authorizes assistance to include roads and bridges, water control facilities, buildings and equipment, utilities, recreation facilities and other items. Certain private non-profit (PNP) organizations also may receive assistance. Eligible PNPs include educational, emergency, medical, rehabilitation, and temporary or permanent custodial care facilities, utilities, and other PNP, which provide essential services of a governmental nature to the general public.

Energy Awareness Project to continue

The CNMI Energy Division will continue its distribution of free Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFL's) and a reusable

shopping bag as part of its Energy Awareness Project.

Anyone who wishes to avail of the program must bring their util-

ity bill to the CNMI Energy Division Office located on Ascencion Drive, House No. 1337 in Capitol Hill from 8am to 11:30am and

12:30pm to 4pm. The program will continue until Jan. 14.

The Energy Awareness Project is made possible through

the U.S. Department of Energy, State Energy Program under a Formula Grant and a Grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

It is available to residential paying customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. who were unable to make it to the two-day Energy Awareness Event held last Dec. 30 and 31 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

The cornerstone of this campaign is to "Bring in the New Year by Saving Energy," which encourages everyone to participate by taking small steps that

make a big difference and by challenging people to do more to help reduce the effects of global warming with more energy-efficient choices at home and at work.

Energy Division director Thelma Inos encourages everyone to be a part of the solution in protecting the environment by simply replacing an incandescent bulb with a qualified energy-efficient ENERGY STAR CFL bulb.

For questions or information regarding the Energy Awareness Event, contact the Energy Division at 664-4480/1. **(PR)**

Coast Guard responds to report of dry-dock fire and sinking



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Shipyard Dry Dock "Big Blue" is partially after submerged after taking water Monday.

GUAM—Guam Shipyard Dry Dock "Big Blue" partially submerged after flooding Monday night.

The dry-dock facility at the Guam Shipyard remains partially submerged after taking on water during the night, flooding unmanned spaces and causing the vessel to sink at the pier.

Coast Guard Sector Guam received a phone call from Naval Base Guam's security forces at 1:16am, Monday morning reporting the dry-dock as sinking and possibly on fire. Coast Station Apra

Harbor launched its 25-foot rescue boat CG25664 while Sector Guam dispatched response personnel.

Naval base fire personnel were called back to the station prior to arrival after being informed that the fire had extinguished itself. There were no signs of anyone onboard the vessel or in the water. The rescue boat reported debris in the water and what appeared to be floating fuel tanks.

Guam Shipyard launched its own salvage crew, recovering both a 500-gallon fuel tank and a 200-gallon plastic drum

filled with sand blasting pellets. One 200-gallon plastic drum of sand blasting pellets remains unaccounted for and Coast Guard Sector Guam has issued a Broadcast Notice to Mariners advising of the possible hazard to navigation. If the drum is located, mariners are asked to contact the Coast Guard Command Center.

The cause of the sinking is unknown and the incident is currently under investigation.

For questions regarding this news release, contact Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center or Lieutenant

Commander Felton Gilmore at 671-355-4821. **(USCG)**



Northern Marianas College

PRESIDENT

Updated Dec. 23, 2010

The Northern Marianas College is currently accepting applications for the position of President. The President of the Northern Marianas College serves as the chief executive officer for the Board of Regents and oversees a multi-campus college system located in three separate islands (Saipan, main campus; Rota and Tinian). The President will report to the Board of Regents and will be expected to carry out the mission of the College:

The mission of Northern Marianas College shall be to provide the best quality and meaningful post secondary and adult educational opportunities for the purpose of improving the quality of life for the individual and for the Commonwealth as a whole. The College shall be responsible for providing education in the areas of adult and continuing education, post secondary and adult vocational education and professional development for the people of the Commonwealth.

Minimum Qualifications:

Master's degree from a U.S. accredited university plus five (5) years of executive level management experience in an institution of higher education or other relevant organization, or a combination of at least five (5) years of executive level management including post-secondary education teaching experience; experience working in a multicultural environment; experience in accreditation process, personnel management, budget development and presentation, strategic planning, and institutional assessment, fundraising, mediation, and team building; and knowledge of federal programs and grants application in higher education.

Preference will be given to applicants that meet or exceed the following:

1. Doctoral degree holders in education administration or related fields from a US accredited institution (other terminal degree holders will be considered); and
2. Five years or more experience in an executive position in higher education administration or related fields; and
3. Three years or more of teaching experience in postsecondary education; and
4. Knowledge of technology used in higher education; and
5. Considerable experience with Asia-Pacific island cultures.

The salary for the position is \$80,000 per annum plus benefits. Applications will be reviewed immediately. Applicants with non-U.S. degrees are responsible for providing an official evaluation of their degrees to determine U.S. equivalency.

Applicants should include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and references. **The target date for applications is January 15, 2011** - Please submit application immediately. Complete application packages and documents may be sent electronically to searches@acct.org and a paper copy must also be mailed to:

Dr. Narcisa Polonio, Vice President
Association of Community Colleges Trustees
1233 20th Street, NW, Suite 301
Washington, DC 20036

For additional information, nominations or confidential inquiries contact Dr. Narcisa Polonio, ACCT, Vice President for Education, Research and Board Leadership Services, 202-276-1983 (mobile) or npolonio@acct.org

For more information about this position and about NMC, visit www.nmcnet.edu or www.acct.org



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID CUC-IFB-11-017

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF WATER DIVISION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Water Division Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-11-017, Supply & Delivery of Water Division Annual Materials**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **February 4, 2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. Bid award per commodity group will be given to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder whose bid is responsive to all specification and requirements.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **Friday, January 28, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Robert Malate, Water Division Engineer via email rmalate@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Patience, perseverance best options in Afghanistan

The Gordian complexity of Afghanistan continues to confound Washington's top military and political strategists. Incremental gains in the U.S.-led effort to stabilize the country don't provide the image of dramatic progress that the public demands. Some insist withdrawal is the only answer.

The scenario recalls the bleakest days of the Iraq war in 2006-07, when challenges seemed insurmountable and many Americans wanted the Bush administration to give up and bring the troops home. A progress report released Monday by Brookings Institution researchers provides perspective on why patient perseverance pays off in the long run.

Iraq's relative stability today can make us forget when the country was lurching toward civil war, civilian casualties were in the tens of thousands, and scores of American troops were dying every month for a seemingly futile cause.

The turnaround came after a handful of Pentagon and State Department visionaries gambled on a controversial plan to boost troop levels while secretly providing cash bribes and other political incentives to bring warring Iraqi leaders to the negotiating table. The Brookings numbers tell the rest of the story, with today's casualty tolls a mere fraction of their 2007 highs.

Turn to Afghanistan, where corruption is pervasive, casualty tolls are mounting, local security forces are reluctant to fight, and Taliban insurgents enjoy a protected haven in tribal areas of neighboring Pakistan. After nine years of war and miniscule progress, the easy answer is to call it quits.

But no viable plan has emerged to address the post-withdrawal aftermath if the Taliban returns to power and resumes providing a safe haven for al-Qaeda, as it did before the 9/11 attacks. Afghanistan cannot achieve the stability it requires unless Taliban gains are reversed and their presence in Pakistan's tribal areas is fully addressed.

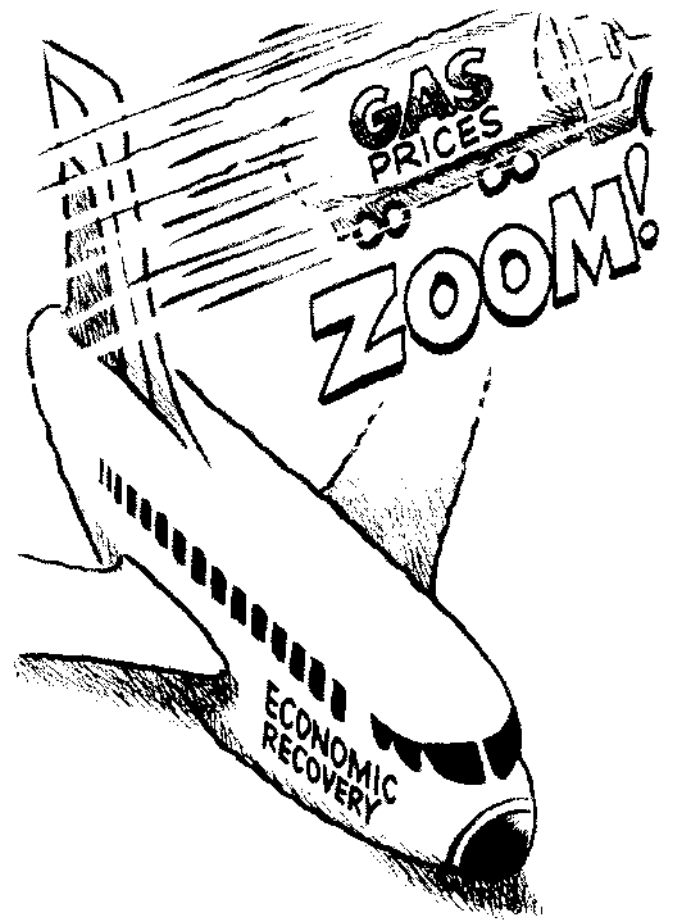
Signs of progress should not be ignored, even if these gains "remain fragile and reversible," as the Obama administration said in a recent annual review of the war. U.S. drone strikes have helped slow Taliban movements. Observation balloons along the Afghan-Pakistan border are helping expand U.S. intelligence-gathering capabilities. Pakistan insists its military is not sitting idly, and that hundreds of its troops have died in counterinsurgency operations.

Can Pakistan do better? It can, and it must. The Obama administration must boost incentives and political pressure on Pakistan's leadership to take bolder action.

Even if that occurs, don't expect headlines heralding major progress, because both governments are understandably cautious about advertising greater military coordination.

Rising death tolls in Afghanistan should trouble the American public as much as they did in Iraq. But a bottomless pit of despair this is not. If progress seems too slow, let the Brookings figures on Iraq serve as a reminder of what can be achieved through patience and perseverance.

(c) 2010, The Dallas Morning News



The morning 2011 came

It was way past midnight after the revelry, and all through the house, all souls were done stirring, though a late whistler punched the night. The writing finger writes and having writ, moves on . . .

What was written? We've been doing personal reflections lately. On Route 66, perhaps, a function of age, so doing more 'inventory' should not come as a surprise.

Our body's senses are our portals to the world. Eyes does double take when a girl's dagan swings and self-confidence marks her stride, otherwise, our vaunted 20/20 vision is deteriorating fast; reading glass now at +300, and getting fussier. We are not into Sildenafil suspected to impair vision (we prefer the herbal aphrodisiac) save on special occasion when friends gift us Viagra that rhymes with Vergara (the name Uncle Ben calls us when we run into each other). We trade momentary pleasures with Magoo's eyelids.

Our taste buds are impeccable in the hutong stalls for wonton soup and jiao zi (dumpling) served steaming hot, as well as the grilled roast beef at Giovanni's, the oil dripping off the bloody sliver of flesh. We can slurp udon (noodle) that accompanies sushi and sashimi, but our girth stays away from cheese and mayo, croissant and butter; blood pressure said Nyet to cognac and the Havana. We appreciate warm Russya Vodka from Chosun Koryo, sake and bei juo (grain liquor) before turning in for the night. Da.

The smell of canine soup in Yanbian (Korea in China) is repulsive, even with the ginseng and the sautéed young stag horns that accompany consumption with promises of wonder-filled aerobics under the sheets. The same goes with the reptile at Taipei's Hwahsi Jie (snake alley). We have no difficulty feasting on liu lian (durian) abundant in Dong Bei fruit stands. We let the olive oil drown our salad dressed in paprika, and we like green beans and snow peas to snap at attention on our crunch; the kai lan (Thai broccoli) and the asparagus drenched in hot water to thwart germs that might have crept into the realm, and ladle the oyster sauce on the wilted green for tasteful finger-licking delight.

We find ourselves asking others to repeat themselves. Again. We suspect friends are in a conspiracy to rile our juices by testing our acumen to discern the sounds of silence, but we shall not be deterred by . . . "What did you say? Again? Hearing aid?" Probably not. Our insurance expired, and Medicare only allows hospital visits; there is actual bliss in not hearing everything said, especially those things we do not wish to hear, or from one we are only too happy to tune out!

Our touch once combined the bedside manner of the comforting parson and the healing physician, but the law has totally gone *noli me tangere* (touch me not), as 12-year-olds now hold their lawyer's number handy on the first touch of harassment and molestation. Our gruff has not dampened our silken caress, so our calluses can still scratch an itch while giving a back rub. Since we boogied in the

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



'60s, we've learned to dance six-feet apart. Touch has gone the way of the cathode ray TV.

In short, we still have a relatively functional body capable of being present to a specific time and at a particular location; we cannot say the same about the heart. Our sensitivity hardened with humanity's survival of the fittest dog-eat-dog in the pursuit of social advantage style. We are often accused of a shortage of empathy, primarily because the autism of our two children led us to be cold-blooded about things that affect neurology. A Methodist who wears his heart up his sleeves, the chip on our shoulder has become a pursuit to what is indicatively required, which, of course, remains a matter of choice. Incidences of heart-warming experiences are replaced by the requirements of radical honesty, intellectual integrity, and personal authenticity.

If there is coldness in our heart, (we're oblivious of egos and we lack strong ethnic solidarity), there is nevertheless great warmth in our mind. Our operating system accommodates the ecumenism of Gaia and the innate benevolence of planet Eaarth; it is normative to do green while being glocal. Kinship goes beyond blood, and relationships are established without ownership. Love is expressed sans obsession, and we celebrate sex without possession. We transcend the strictures of parochial emotions if only to make inclusiveness transparent in a meditative council that is now standing room only in the planetary amphitheatre of our mind.

This might be abstraction of a high order, but we have come to a fork on the road on relationships, and the preferences of ethnic and tribal loyalties have been supplanted by equality before the altar of common humanity and planetary social order. Relationship to wealth and property, careers and pecking orders, are drastically redefined, and we find our intellect in the service of a new humanity that is coming into being, inclusive of what has been, affirming of what will be, and celebrative of what happens to be the prevailing IS (indicative) of our existence.

This leaves us with the challenge of human conduct in our time, in this case, in Gaia by Gregorian circa 2011. We create, innovate, and be. T's the morning of the New Year, and all through the house; my soul is moving, through my MacBook mouse.

Thus began my year. How did yours start?

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Creating economic success for the CNMI

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Reclaim your power! Break free! Live true to your self! (One day I'll fly away)

My final Saipan Tribune column

Last week's *The Tao of Shawshank* was my final column for 2010, and also my final column for the *Saipan Tribune*. I've enjoyed the last five years writing the Saipanpreneur Project for the *Tribune*. From that day in April 2006, when I walked into editor Jayvee's office, it's been a very rewarding experience that has allowed me to explore new avenues of personal expression, provide a service to the community, and helped me meet many great people as readers, tourists, subjects of my saipanpreneur profiles as well as *Tribune* staff. (*For a complete archive of all 245 of my *Tribune* articles, visit www.passionprofit.com/escape/20.html)

Reclaim! Break! Live!

Someone asked me the other day what would be the most important lesson I would wish to impart to a child I was raising. I answered (1) the ability to keep going even when things look bleak, (2) the ability to maintain a positive attitude in the midst of negativity, and (3) the ability to choose her reactions to life's situations by developing the ability to think critically and objectively. These are just a few of the qualities that would make her journey ultimately more rewarding.

But what of the journey, itself? What is it ultimately all for? The underlying objective of the journey—as I see it—and as mentioned in last week's column, is to reclaim your power. Break free. Live

true to your self. In other words: Reclaim your power to create and to choose. Break free from the limitations of thought, habit, expectations, and what others consider “the norm” particularly if these norms do not serve you. Live true to your self—the self that has come with a purpose to pass.

As you may know, I'm currently “the Jamaican in China,” reclaiming my power, breaking free, living true to my own nomadpreneur self, and blogging about it all! I invite you to join me on this adventure as my way of encouraging you to do the same. And until we meet again, I leave you, my *Tribune* readers, with the best advice I can think of for the individual (young and younger alike), nation or state, and myself, too: Reclaim your power! Break free! Live true to your self!

One Day I'll Fly Away

One day I'll fly away and go
I've come to pass not stay
For though my welcome warm has been
I shall not overstay

One day I'll fly away to grow
And distant lands survey
How life is seen through others' eyes
this journey shall convey

One day I'll fly away to show
the world's a passion play
Your role to live true to your self
and not some groundhog day

One day I'll fly away, so know
life IS a cabaret
Throw fears and caution to the wind
cast ties that bind away

One day I'll fly away...let go
Must leave without delay
The nomad voice commands me
and I must not disobey

The Saipanpreneur Project

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.



One day I'll fly away, and so
he time has come to say
I bid thee well, and always know
I may return one day!

Keep in touch!

■ For a special version of the Tao of Shawshank article with movie scene commentary for each of the 12 Rules of Shawshank, visit www.waltgoodridge.com

■ For a complete archive of all my *Tribune* articles, visit www.passionprofit.com/escape/20.html

■ If you wish to follow my nomadpreneur adventures online, visit and sign up at JamaicanInChina.com!

■ You can also find me on Facebook.com

■ And, as always, if you ever want to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan, do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

■ ■ ■ ■

Remember, success is a journey, not a destination!—Walt

Send feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com. Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the U.S., and now lives a nomadpreneur lifestyle. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com.

Apocalyptic pain in 2011

While President Obama searches for his next economic advisor—a deficit hawk or one from academia—the NMI watches apprehensively at how U.S. House Republicans would dispose of unbridled earmarks. Would the new leadership eat dessert first and leave the spinach on the table or stick to its guns to cut spending by as much as \$100 million annually?

This as the NMI sends its search and rescue team combing the entire archipelago for that elusive revenue shortfall of some \$6 million. We search for answers fully wary of the very unsettling feeling of bankruptcy taking its vicious hold on government operations here. Tried to dismiss it, but not when the daily diet is doom, gloom, and unrelenting pessimism.

With a divided U.S. Congress, would members find common ground for successful partisanship or would they let it slide into political gridlock and brinkmanship? The latter would send the entire country into an incomprehensible tailspin. Definitely, national republicans are ready to drain the filthy swamp of unbridled expenses including money for bridges that lead to nowhere. Whatever the trend, it leaves the NMI helpless given that its fortune is in earmarks or pork barrel appropriations destined for annihilation.

States with mega financial meltdowns have been told to cut spending to the hilt and sternly reminded, “No worries, we won't call you!” Thus, municipal government services were privatized in various states that have resulted in millions of dollars in savings. So even if the NMI sends its bamboo reed chopper to search for earmarks, we won't find it on Capitol Hill. Such is the new reality in the 112th U.S. Congress!

We were humming as late as 1993 when we had an apparel industry that raked-in some \$1.2 billion annually. It was the same year when the NMI declared to the U.S. House Subcommittee on Appropriations to discontinue federal funds for government operations here. No other territory has done that except the NMI. The unusual assertion took Uncle Sam by surprise. Or was it the NMI that was surprised to hear the echo of its fragile assertion?

I was proud of our statement that year. But little did we know that

our successful apparel industry was equally riddled with instability. The law of avalanche was nowhere in sight during the peak of apparel manufacturing here. Regardless of its construction—single grain of sand or spoonful—our sandpile (apparel industry) would eventually cascade. It did! The single most vital question then was: when would it cascade? We weren't even ready to engage in robust debate on this question.

Even when the sandpile cascaded to the ground, we acquiesced it by reveling in what's left of apparel industry tax contributions. Our acquiescence didn't bode well with the task to forging a resilient economic base to mitigate shifts in paradigms. It illustrated that we were never keen to long-term planning, learning and embracing the demands of change, large and small. Subsequent global changes governing apparel manufacturing eventually annihilated the entire industry here. It's gone!

The last economic pillar, tourism, is unstably swaying at the base. We still speak of promotion as the holy grail ignoring the absence of load capacity or airlines to service the NMI. But this immobilizing dilemma is the glaring result of the use of the language of the past to view our warped crystal fishbowl. It has mesmerized our nimble minds right into the sea of paralysis. Have we all parked our craniums somewhere?

We even juggled insanity hoping hopelessly for different results. Major airlines have left and took with it some \$900 million to \$1.5 billion on money that used to be recycled in the local economy. Coupled with this financial drain is the abandonment of some \$1.5 billion in prospective investments forced out of existence by litigation hailing from Article XII. Did we do anything to guard against this fatal financial avalanche? Can the revenue generating measures before the legislature provide the substitute or economic cushion for these losses? Or is this the joke of 2010?

Indeed, these phenomena illustrate the fragility of island economies in a global village that embraces change in business paradigms by the seconds. We haven't been a proactive part of all the changes that have rendered economic studies and scientific data of the last 40 years irrelevant. Thus the obvious dystopia—where

nothing works—but couldn't figure out where to begin. At some point in the near term we must engage the right paradigm to deal realistically with the beast. Either that or we'd be forever lost in shuffles that benefit only those who are up to the task of embracing change, change we've missed over the last four decades.

Strange how we seem to know our problems but have treated it with our time honored *mañana* syndrome. Thus, the continued use of the language of the past on the same recycled rhetorical material. Even Alan Greenspan, former head of the Federal Reserve Board, admitted before the U.S. Congress his shock at his use of irrelevant information for the last 40 years advising our national government on finance and economics.

Otherwise, he and his colleagues from academia, D.C. and Wall Street would have resolved the current economic mess from taking root since years ago. Unless we learn the new concepts that have emerged over the last decade or so, we'd be like students headed to taking a test without knowledge of the language.

Although the dazed epidemic has become the norm here, I'm not prepared to look into the rearview mirror but rather the windshield that presents a hopeful view of what's ahead of us. In short, our forefathers have successfully weathered every humiliation and privation that had come to our shores since time immemorial. They were inebriated by the cultural imposition of foreign governments, but they never lost sight of their purpose in this archipelago. Their quiet inspiration was their siblings and worked diligently to create brighter tomorrows via real sacrifices. This too we can do for our children, today!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune






Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼75

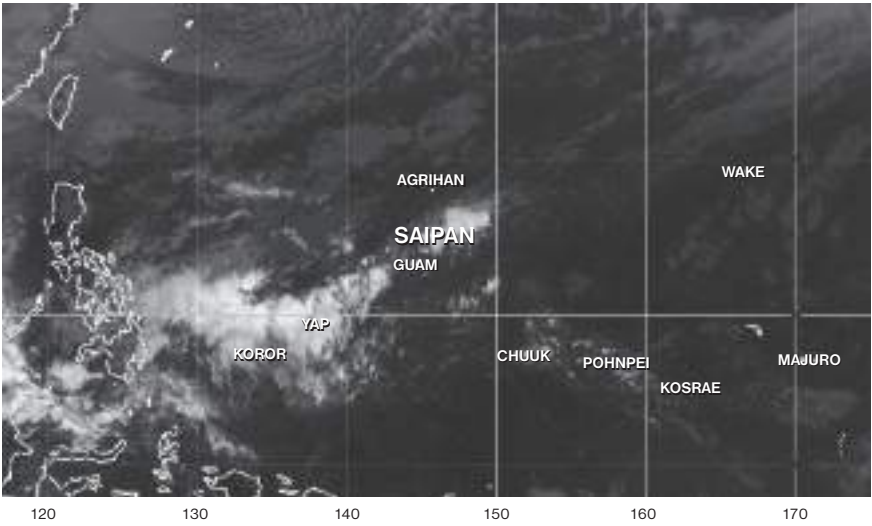
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲74 ▼68
Beijing	Windy	▲29 ▼13
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼58
Honolulu	Sunny	▲81 ▼68
London	Showers	▲44 ▼38
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲61 ▼42
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼58
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲79 ▼59
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲42 ▼28
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲50 ▼38
Paris	Showers	▲43 ▼39
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲45 ▼26
Rome	Showers	▲53 ▼41
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲40 ▼35
San Francisco	Sunny	▲57 ▼44
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲28 ▼11
Tokyo	Sunny	▲50 ▼39
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲48 ▼31

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
2:16 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet	
9:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
2:45 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet	
7:27 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from near Iwo To island at 25N142E to beyond 130E at 21N. Clouds and patchy rain are seen over Iwo To as well as along and up to 130 miles northwest of the front. A diffuse shear line stretches southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N174E to Anatahan at 16N146E to finally end at 11N130E. Patchy clouds and rain are present along and up to 130 miles northwest of the shear line between 174E and 160E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of the shear line between 142E and 130E. A surface trough runs northeastward from 3N133E to end near Saipan at 16N147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring west of the trough axis over Koror and Yap or in an area bounded by a line from 11N130E to 13N140E to 6N143E to 3N140E to 8N130E back to 11N130E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are evident near the trough axis over the southern Marianas within 75 miles of a line from 11N141E to 15N144E to 17N151E. A weak trade-wind disturbance is creating widely scattered showers over Chuuk, Pohnpei and southwest of Kosrae within 120 miles of a line from 9N152E to 3N163E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers south of Majuro between 3N and 5N from 167E to 174E and also east of Butaritari Atoll within 100 miles of a line from EQ174E to 4N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	6:00 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:10 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	7:54 AM	7:40 PM
Friday	8:35 AM	8:30 PM
Saturday	9:13 AM	9:17 PM
Sunday	9:48 AM	10:04 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
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- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Investments place value of Facebook at \$50 billion

NEW YORK (AP)—An injection of cash that values Facebook at \$50 billion will help it delay going public for at least another year, giving the company breathing room to focus on long-term ambition rather than short-term profit.

The infusion—\$500 million from elite investment house Goldman Sachs and a Russian investor, according to a report by The New York Times—represents the most emphatic endorsement yet of Facebook's potential to make money in online social networking.

It places the company at twice the value of Internet giant Yahoo and about equal to what well-established names such as Boeing and Kraft Foods are worth on the open market.

More important, it buys time for Facebook to keep its



Exterior of Facebook headquarters in Palo Alto, Calif., Monday, Jan. 3, 2011.

books private and not have to cater to the demands of the market. And it gives 26-year-old founder Mark Zuckerberg room to grow into his role as the public face of a multinational company.

Zuckerberg is widely believed to be more comfortable operating behind the scenes, thinking about technology and business, than engaging in public discourse, says Standard & Poor's equity analyst Scott Kessler, who follows large Internet companies.

"There is still some question whether he has the persona to be a public CEO and, if he doesn't, would he be willing to cede control to someone who does," says Mark Heeson, president of the National Venture Capital Association, a trade group that represents

firms that invest in startups. "That is probably an issue that Facebook's board has been discussing for some time."

As it nears the seventh anniversary of its founding in a Harvard dorm room, Facebook is already slightly more mature than Google was when it went public, in 2004. At the time, investors placed Google's value at about \$24 billion.

By the time Google turned 7, in September 2005, its market value had ballooned to about \$90 billion, and the company wound up with \$6 billion in revenue that year.

Google, like Facebook, wanted to stay private as long as possible to avoid public scrutiny of its finances, investor complaints about its strategy and potential management distractions.

Your Earth Pacific appoints Hawthorne as product distributor

TAMUNING, Guam—Your Earth Pacific CEO David Loughnan announced the appointment of Hawthorne Pacific Corporation as their distributor for the Northern Pacific region. The Hawthorne Pacific Corp.'s Guam branch will service Guam, Palau, Saipan, and the Federated States of Micronesia, effective immediately.

Hawthorne will stock and supply YEP's uniquely eco-friendly major product lines for customers throughout the region at both the Caterpillar dealership and the HFP Industrial Products store.

"A strong relationship with a company like Hawthorne Pacific Corp. is a major step for our company and began when we persuaded them to trial our fuel conditioner—FCC (Fuel Conditioner Concentrate) in their own rental equipment and with

selected customers who were having fuel related maintenance and operating efficiency issues. Degraded fuel is such a common problem in the tropics and we find we can produce noticeable improvements almost everywhere FCC is adopted. We found Hawthorne to be very professional throughout the trial and it was a natural progression to find a way of forging a closer business relationship," said Mr. Loughnan.

He added that the FCC product exceeded his company's expectations and will be a great addition to the quality service products marketed by YEP.

"Our view is if we can assist our loyal Caterpillar customers to reduce fuel-related maintenance by removing the ever present problem of moisture in fuel, and if we can eliminate the quite common and dreaded die-

sel bug, we will be a very strong position to maintain our strong market share when it comes time to replacing and purchasing new equipment. We are committed to our customers having uninterrupted use of their Caterpillar machines. When they are not operating due to service problems, our customers are not making money," said HPC Guam branch service manager Darrell Slyter.

The first shipment of FCC has arrived in Guam and YEP is embarking on a rigorous training program with Hawthorne Pacific's staff and customers.

Hawthorne's regional manager Vincent Davis said, "This is a great product for this region. Our market place is very competitive so being able to offer FCC to every major fuel user is a huge improvement in our customer service options. Any user of a

diesel, gasoline, or even 2-stroke engines will benefit from regular use of this excellent Australian-made product, regardless of the engine manufacturer.

Loughnan went on to say, "Everywhere we have trialed FCC in the Pacific, the story has been the same—lower and more efficient fuel usage due to restoring manufacturer levels of performance, reduced black smoke emissions (unburned fuel), reduced down-time due to minimizing fuel related maintenance problems and major reductions in operating costs. FCC is diluted at 1:4000 so it is very efficient and the cost benefit case is very compelling.

Hawthorne will be stocking a wide variety of pack sizes suitable for almost every application, ranging from a pleasure yacht with diesel bug in its tanks to a major power station looking

for operational efficiencies.

Like all YEP products, FCC is an environmentally best practice, contains no hydrocarbons or harsh chemicals, is non toxic and can be safely transported by air, so even

emergencies in remote locations can be addressed.

Hawthorne has stocked up and is ready to go and we look forward to servicing customers throughout the Northern Pacific. (PR)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fiat CEO: 51 percent of Chrysler possible in 2011

MILAN (AP)—Italy's Fiat is edging closer to becoming a global car maker. It has split off its farm equipment and truck business to focus on automobiles, and says it could take control of Chrysler this year. The move comes as Chrysler boosts sales, introduces new cars and prepares to take its stock public again after last year's bankruptcy. "I think it is possible, I don't know whether it is likely, but it is possible that we go over the 50 percent if Chrysler decides to go to the market in 2011," Fiat CEO Sergio Marchionne, who is also CEO of Chrysler, told reporters Monday.

Factory outlook bright after 17 months of growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—Factories are cranking up production, anticipating greater spending by consumers and businesses in 2011. Tax cuts will give people more money to buy cars, computers and electronic goods, and provide incentives for businesses to invest in equipment. Manufacturing

activity has expanded in every month since the recession ended a year and a half ago. The big difference now is that the growth is being driven by higher sales and more confident consumers—not just businesses rebuilding the stockpiles that they slashed during the recession.

Ex-Madoff secretary seeks reduced bail in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Jailed Ponzi scheme king Bernard Madoff's former secretary has asked to be released on bail, saying the government has seized control of her finances and eliminated any means to flee before a New York trial. Annette Bongiorno made the request Monday in a filing in federal court in Manhattan. Her lawyers say their 62-year-old client should be freed on bail because electronic monitoring and frozen finances would eliminate any risk of flight. Bongiorno is on her way to New York after surrendering in Florida last month. She's charged with conspiracy and securities fraud in Madoff's multi-billion dollar fraud.

BofA settlement with Fannie, Freddie 'clears air'

NEW YORK (AP)—Bank of America Corp. reached a \$2.8 billion settlement with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac over claims that one of its businesses sold bad mortgages. The payment is far lower than analysts expected and removes some uncertainty that has hovered over the bank.

The settlement is the biggest yet involving banks and the two government-backed mortgage giants, which continue to suffer huge losses from the collapse

of the housing market. Analysts and investors have been waiting to see how hard a line Fannie and Freddie would take with big mortgage lenders such as Citigroup Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Wells Fargo & Co. Some estimates ran as high as \$10 billion for a Bank of America settlement.

"The government gave Bank of America a very attractive deal," said Christopher Whalen, managing director of Institu-

tional Risk Analytics.

Bank stocks rallied on the news, with Bank of America up more than 6 percent and Wells Fargo up 2 percent. Other settlements are likely soon.

The claims stem from mortgages sold to Fannie and Freddie by former mortgage giant Countrywide Financial, which Bank of America bought in 2008. The two government-backed agencies buy mortgages from lenders and re-sell them

to investors. They want banks to buy back mortgages that had incorrect information about the income and other qualifications of borrowers. During the housing boom, lenders such as Countrywide routinely gave mortgages to people who ultimately couldn't afford them. This lit the fuse for the financial meltdown in 2008. Most of the mortgages that Fannie and Freddie want to sell back to the banks are in default.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
11,670.75	1,271.89	2,691.52
+93.24	+14.25	+38.65
+0.81%	+1.13%	+1.46%

EXCHANGE RATES

n U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	0.9772	Indian Rupee	44.7050	Singapore Dollar	1.2834
	British Pound	0.6405	Indonesian Rupiah	8,996.25	South Korean Won	1,126.00
	Canadian Dollar	0.9980	Japanese Yen	81.1170	Swiss Franc	0.9352
	Chinese Yuan	6.6070	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0635	Taiwan Dollar	29.2990
	Euro	0.7472	New Zealand Dollar	1.2817	Thailand Baht	30.0600

Nation

House GOP sending Obama a message on health repeal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Eager to show who's now in charge, the House's new Republican majority plans to vote to repeal President Barack Obama's landmark health care overhaul before he even shows up in their chamber to give his State of the Union address.

Dramatic as that early show-down promises to be—the vote will be Jan. 12, Republicans said Monday—it will be just the first in a series of struggles expected to play out in the next few months. Obama returns Tuesday from his holiday vaca-

tion, fresh off lame-duck legislative victories late last year, and Republicans will be sworn in Wednesday, primed to challenge him after gaining House control in last fall's elections.

Full repeal of the health care law is still a long shot. The House vote would be just the first, easiest step. But House Republicans vow they will follow up with dozens of attempts to hack away at what they derisively call "Obamacare."

The strategy is not risk-free for the Republicans, who won't

have a replacement plan of their own ready by the time of the repeal vote. But they say there's no time to lose.

Senate Democratic leaders are sending their own "you-don't-scare-me" message. In a letter Monday to House Speaker-to-be John Boehner, they served notice that they'll block any repeal, arguing it would kill popular provisions such as improved prescription coverage for Medicare.

Beyond the early health care vote, emboldened Republicans are straining to challenge the pres-

ident's spending priorities, setting up likely conflicts over the budget and the country's debt ceiling. Those votes will be early tests of how the president will maneuver with a divided Congress, as both he and Republicans look ahead to the next elections.

Most likely, both parties will carry the main issues of the health care debate into the 2012 campaign, when Obama is expected to seek a second term against a Republican challenger, and House and Senate control will be up for grabs again.

"It's not going to be easy; it's going to be a long, hard slog," said Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, an early leader in the health care repeal drive. The quick thumbs-down vote by the House will have "tremendous utility and value," King said, but it may take electing a Republican president in Obama's place to accomplish the overall goal.

All the while, the Obama administration intends to keep putting into place the law's framework for covering more than 30 million uninsured

people. Ultimately, Obama still has his veto pen, and Republicans aren't anywhere close to the two-thirds majorities they would need to override.

"Repeal and replace" worked as a campaign slogan to motivate voters concerned about the growing reach of government under Obama. But a single-minded focus on repeal could backfire as a Republican governing strategy. Polls show that some parts of the law are popular, and many Americans would have wanted even bigger changes.

Fireworks blamed in US bird deaths

BEEBE, Arkansas (AP)—New Year's revelers in a small Arkansas town were enjoying midnight fireworks when they noticed something other than sparks falling from the sky: thousands of dead blackbirds.

The red-winged blackbirds rained out of the darkness onto rooftops and sidewalks and into fields. One struck a woman walking her dog. Another hit a police cruiser.

Birds were "littering the streets, the yards, the driveways, everywhere," said Robby King, a county wildlife officer in Beebe, a community of 5,000 northeast of Little Rock. "It was hard to drive down the street in some places without running over them."

In all, more than 3,000 birds tumbled to the ground. Scientists said Monday that fireworks appeared to have frightened the birds into such a frenzy that they crashed into homes, cars and each other. Some may have flown straight into the ground.

"The blackbirds were flying at rooftop level instead of treetop level" to avoid explosions above, said Karen Rowe, an ornithologist with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. "Blackbirds

have poor eyesight, and they started colliding with things."

But Rowe stopped short of declaring the mystery solved, saying labs planned to test bird carcasses for toxins or disease. Another theory was that violent thunderstorms might have disoriented the flock or even just one bird that could have led the group in a fatal plunge to the ground.

A few stunned birds survived their fall and stumbled around like drunken revelers. There was little light across the countryside at the time, save for the glimmer of fireworks and some lightning on the horizon. In the tumult, many birds probably lost their bearings.

"I turn and look across my yard, and there's all these lumps," said Shane Roberts, who thought hail was falling until he saw a dazed blackbird beneath his truck. His 16-year-old daughter, Alex, spent Saturday morning picking them up. "Their legs are really squishy," she said.

For some people, the scene unfolding shortly before midnight evoked images of the apocalypse and cut short New Year's celebrations. Many families phoned police instead of popping champagne.



Assistant State Veterinarian Dr. Brandon Doss examines dead red-winged blackbirds at the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission Diagnostic Laboratory in Little Rock, Ark., Monday, Jan. 3, 2011.

"I think the switchboard lit up pretty good," said Beebe police Capt. Eddie Cullum. "For all the doomsdayers, that was definitely the end of the world."

Paul Duke filled three five-

gallon (19-liter) buckets with dead birds on New Year's Day. "They were on the roof of the house, in the yard, on the sidewalks, in the street," said Duke, a supervisor at a nearby school.

A few dead birds still littered town streets Monday.

The birds will not be missed. Large roosts like the one at Beebe can have thousands of birds that leave ankle- to knee-deep

piles of droppings in places. On Monday, a few live birds chirped and hopped from tree to tree behind the Roberts' home.

"The whole sky turns black every morning and every night," Roberts said.

At Duke's home, bird feeders stood empty. He fills them when bluebirds come in the summer but leaves them empty during blackbird season.

"They'd eat 50 pounds (22.5 kilograms) of feed a day," he said. "You couldn't keep them full."

Red-winged blackbirds are among North America's most abundant birds, with somewhere between 100 million and 200 million nationwide, according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York. Rowe put the number of dead in Beebe at "easily 3,000." Thousands can roost in one tree.

The Game and Fish Commission shipped carcasses to the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission and the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin. Researchers at the University of Georgia's wildlife disease study group also asked for a set of birds. Test results could be back in a week.

Source: Obama may name William Daley to top job

HONOLULU (AP)—President Barack Obama is considering naming former Commerce Secretary William Daley to a top White House job, possibly chief of staff, a person familiar with the matter said Monday. The development comes as Obama eyes a broader reorganization of his senior staff heading into the next phase of his presidency.

Daley, an executive at JPMorgan Chase, has extensive private sector experience, an attractive profile for a White House trying to counter the notion that the president is antibusiness. Obama aides have been discussing naming an executive to a top job as a way to give the business community more of a voice in the administration.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because

they were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

Obama's first chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, resigned last year to run for Chicago mayor. The colorful and hard-edged Emanuel was replaced by interim chief of staff Pete Rouse, a low-key, behind the scenes troubleshooter who prefers to operate out of the spotlight.

Daley, 62, has spent decades quietly but successfully maneuvering the political landscape. While his brother, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, focused on local issues, William Daley has had one foot in Chicago and one in Washington.

With his ties to his family's powerful political dynasty, Daley would likely bring a broader public profile to the chief of staff job than the privacy-seeking

Rouse. His appointment would also bring an outside voice into Obama's circle, and give the impression that Obama is willing to make changes following Democrats' sweeping defeats in the midterm elections.

Other changes are expected to unfold soon. Rouse has been heading a staff review that is expected to lead to some shake-ups in the West Wing.

David Plouffe, the architect of Obama's 2008 presidential campaign, is expected to be in the White House as soon as next week as an adviser to the president. One of the president's most trusted advisers, David Axelrod, is leaving this month; he is expected to take a break and recharge for a central role in the 2012 re-election campaign.

ACROSS THE NATION

NYC trash pickup resumes, a week after blizzard

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City is picking up garbage for the first time since the blizzard a week ago. Mayor Michael Bloomberg says the next step will be figuring out what went wrong with the storm cleanup. Bloomberg was asked at a schools event Monday whether budget cuts had an impact on snow removal. The mayor says the city used the same number of workers as in previous storms.

Ohio boy, 10, faces charge in mom's fatal shooting

MILLERSBURG, Ohio (AP)—A 10-year-old boy was charged as a juvenile with mur-

der in the fatal shooting of his mother after authorities said he told a neighbor about the killing. The boy appeared Monday in a Holmes County courtroom with his attorney, who entered the juvenile equivalent of a not guilty plea. A judge ordered that the boy remain in Richland County Juvenile Detention as authorities investigate the shooting. Deborah McVay, 46, was found dead of a single gunshot wound to the head Sunday night in Big Prairie, located about midway between Cleveland and Columbus, said Holmes County Sheriff Tim Zimmerly. Paramedics found McVay lying facedown on her living room floor, and she was pronounced dead at the scene, Zimmerly said.

Man pleads guilty to killing woman found in pond

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey man pleaded guilty Monday to killing his mistress, whose dismembered body was found in a New York City pond. Rosario DiGirolamo faces a 25-year prison sentence after his admission in state Superior Court. Jury selection in the case that became known as the "Missing Mom" murder was scheduled to begin Tuesday. DiGirolamo pleaded guilty to aggravated manslaughter in the June 2007 death of 27-year-old Amy Giordano. Prosecutors contend DiGirolamo killed Giordano, disposed of her body, then left the couple's 11-month-old son in the parking lot of a Delaware hospital.

Asia

Troubled Pakistan faces ruling coalition collapse

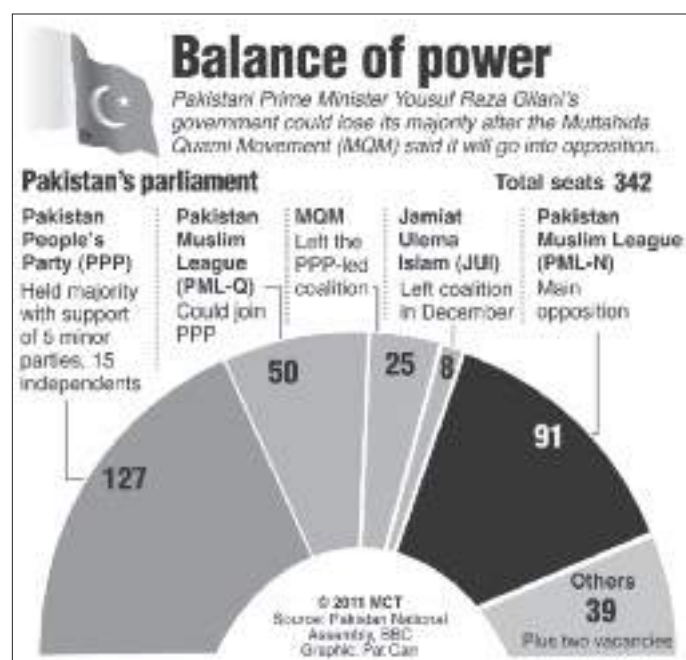
ISLAMABAD (AP)—The collapse of Pakistan's ruling coalition after a key party's defection complicates efforts to tackle problems facing this nuclear-armed nation already grappling with widespread poverty and insurgent attacks.

The renewed political turmoil bodes ill for military action against Muslim extremists that the U.S. believes is key to success in neighboring Afghanistan, analysts said. Pakistan's powerful army could use the lack of political consensus to avoid operations that clash with its perceived strategic interests.

The crisis also all but guarantees that lawmakers will not make progress anytime soon on fixing Pakistan's deep-seated problems in areas like education, health care and infrastructure that have contributed to economic decline and rising militancy.

"There is no electricity, no gas, no jobs and they are fighting one another," said Arif Fasiullah, 35, of the central city of Multan. "They do not pass any legislation. They just do dirty politics."

Pakistan, with a population of more than 180 million, faces chronic power outages that can last up to 16 hours per day in some areas during the scorching summer, and up to a third of its people lack access to clean



drinking water. Average income per capita is less than \$3,000, and the average adult has fewer than five years of schooling.

The International Monetary Fund, which has provided Pakistan with billions of dollars in loans to keep its economy afloat, has demanded the country implement significant reforms, including deep cuts to its deficit. The assistance took on added importance after last year's massive floods that affected some 20 million people.

But the economic reforms, notably a revised general sales tax, are unpopular and have giv-

en the opposition and other parties a focus for their complaints.

The second-largest partner in Pakistan's governing coalition, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement, said Sunday it was joining the opposition because of fuel price hikes and the generally poor performance of the ruling Pakistan People's Party. The government announced rises in gas and heating oil prices on New Year's Eve that the MQM called a "petrol bomb" dropped on the Pakistani people.

The shift in the political landscape, which ended the coalition's majority in parlia-

ment, was not expected to lead to the fragile government's imminent collapse.

But analysts warned that Pakistan's army may use the crisis as yet another reason to delay launching an operation against militants in the country's North Waziristan tribal area who regularly attack foreign troops in Afghanistan. The U.S. believes cutting the militants off from North Waziristan and other sanctuaries inside Pakistan is critical for any sustainable victory in Afghanistan.

"It will give the army chief the excuse to say that he does not have the political consensus needed to go into North Waziristan," said Mosharraf Zaidi, an independent political analyst and columnist in Islamabad.

The army, considered the most powerful institution in Pakistan, has deflected demands for a North Waziristan operation in the past, saying its troops are stretched too thin in other areas along the Afghan border. But many analysts believe the army is reluctant to target militant groups with which it has historical ties and could be useful proxies in Afghanistan after foreign forces withdraw.

That outlook is unlikely to change regardless of which party is running the government, said Zaidi.

Crocodiles, snakes are danger in flooded Australia

ROCKHAMPTON, Australia (AP)—Residents of an Australian city cut off by some of the country's worst flooding in decades are being warned to stay out of the water, and not just because of the risk of being swept away: Debris, snakes and even crocodiles could also pose a danger.

Large parts of the coastal city of Rockhampton were underwater Tuesday. The waters were still rising, with the 75,000-strong population bracing for the floods' expected peak in the next 24 hours as a huge inland sea spawned by heavy rain across Queensland state drains toward the ocean.

Up to 500 people have been evacuated from their homes along the Fitzroy River, which runs through the city and has spilled over its banks and inundated houses and businesses in waters ranging from a few inches (centimeters) to waist-deep. Queensland state Premier Anna Bligh said all air, rail and road links to the city had been cut—though local officials said later one highway heading north was still open Tuesday morning.

Rockhampton is the latest of 22 cities and towns in Queensland to be swamped by

floods that began building just before Christmas—the worst effects of an unusually wet summer in the tropical region. Swollen rivers and flooding have killed 10 people in Queensland since late November, police say.

Officials have said the flooded area covers the size of France and Germany combined and 200,000 people have been affected.

Authorities have warned residents to stay out of floodwaters for their own safety, saying the biggest risk is from fast-moving currents powerful enough to sweep cars from roadways—at least two people have drowned after being swept away in their cars.

Rockhampton Mayor Brad Carter has also said residents have reported higher than usual numbers of snakes being seen, as the animals move around looking for dry ground. He has also noted that saltwater crocodiles have been spotted from time to time in the Fitzroy River.

"We do not think they are a risk to public safety if people keep out of the waters, but if people do enter the waters their safety cannot be guaranteed," Carter was quoted as saying in The Australian newspaper.



Japan PM calls for opening up country, tax debate

TOKYO (AP)—The Japanese prime minister said he wants 2011 to be the year Japan opens up to rest of the world and called Tuesday for debate on raising the sales tax to prop up ailing finances as the country's population shrinks and ages.

To revive its economy, Japan needs to embrace free trade and reform its protected farming sector, Prime Minister Naoto Kan said in a nationally televised press conference to set his agenda for the new year.

"I want this to be Year One of opening up the country" of the modern era, Kan said.

Kan asked for cooperation from his political opponents,

saying the public has been disappointed by political squabbling that has paralyzed parliament. He also called for the eradication of "money politics," a reference to the series of scandals that have plagued Japanese politicians over the years.

He also raised the possibility of increasing the consumption tax to shore up the country's finances, a potentially politically poisonous notion. Support for the ruling party plunged and it lost badly in July's upper house elections after he suggested that Japan needs to raise its 5 percent sales tax to as high as 10 percent.

"The need for a discussion

about social welfare and the resources required, including tax reform and raising the consumption tax, is clear to everyone," he said.

Japan's economy is entering its third decade of stagnation, and last year China overtook it to become the world's second-biggest economy. Last month, the Cabinet approved a record 92.4 trillion yen (\$1.11 trillion) draft budget aimed at creating jobs and reviving growth.

At the same time, the country faces a looming demographic squeeze. Last year, its population fell by a record 123,000 people, and stood at 125.77 million as of

October. Young people are waiting longer to get married and choosing to have fewer children because of careers and economic concerns.

Japanese aged 65 and older make up about a quarter of the country's current population. The government projects that by 2050, that figure will climb to 40 percent.

In office since last June, Kan also said he wanted to work to decrease the burden of the U.S. military presence in the southern island of Okinawa, which hosts more than half the 47,000 American troops based in Japan under a security pact with Washington.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Filipino official caught murder suspect on camera

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police in the Philippines investigating a shooting death of a local councilman on New Year's Day did not have to look further than the last photograph the victim took. The picture taken outside the councilman's house in metropolitan Manila clearly shows a man aiming his gun from behind the victim's smiling three-member family. Police say Councilman Reynaldo Dagsa

was shot seconds later and died of wounds. His family gave police the photo, which ran on the *Philippine Daily Inquirer's* front page Tuesday. Caloocan city police chief Jude Santos says a man identified in the picture was arrested Monday.

Dead fetus found in airplane bathroom in Manila

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police say a dead fetus has been found in the bathroom of a plane that arrived in the Philippine

capital. The gruesome discovery comes months after a woman gave birth on another flight to Manila and dumped the live infant in an airplane trash bag. Aviation police investigator Marcelino Peninoy says a cleaner discovered the remains of the 5- to 6-month-old male fetus Monday on the Etihad Airways aircraft after it arrived from Abu Dhabi. The identity of the mother was unclear, though millions of Filipinos work abroad. Abortion is illegal in the Philippines and the

mother could face charges if she terminated the pregnancy.

7 missing after China fishing boat sinks

BEIJING (AP)—State media report seven crew members are missing and feared drowned after their fishing boat sank in a southern Chinese river. The official Xinhua News Agency says another four people were rescued after it sank early Sunday. The Monday report says rescue boats and divers have been sent to search the area where the ves-

sel went down in the Xijiang River in the southern province of Guangdong. The cause of the sinking is under investigation, although the report says there was no evidence of a collision.

Sri Lanka to end use of its colonial name Ceylon

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka has decided to remove all remaining references to its British colonial name Ceylon from state institutions. Ceylon gained indepen-

dence from Britain in 1948 and changed its name to Sri Lanka when it became a republic in 1972. Many state institutions, however, have continued to use the name, including the Bank of Ceylon, Ceylon Electricity Board, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation and Ceylon Fisheries Corporation. Sri Lanka's government released a statement late last week saying it wanted legislation authorizing the changes. With the ruling party holding a large majority in Parliament, approval of suggested bills are considered a formality.

World

Bombing opens vein of Christian anger in Egypt

CAIRO (AP)—The New Year's Day suicide bombing of a church that killed 21 people has opened up a vein of fury among Egypt's Christians, built up over years of what they call government failure to address persistent discrimination and violence against their community.

Christian protests spread to Cairo from the northern city of Alexandria where the attack took place. Late Sunday, riots erupted outside the cathedral-headquarters of the Coptic Church after the country's top Muslim religious figures and government officials met with Pope Shenouda III.

Protesters threw bottles and stones at riot police outside the cathedral, injuring 45 policemen, security officials said. Elsewhere, demonstrators threw stones at cars on two main highways, and hundreds marched in other parts of the capital, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press.

On Monday, Shenouda spoke on state television and urged the government to address Coptic grievances over what they perceive as unjust laws and restrictions on the community—a rare criticism from the elderly church father.

"The state also has a duty. It must see to the problems of the Copts and try to resolve them,"



An Egyptian Copt protester, who was injured during clashes with Egyptian riot police, reacts as he was evacuated from the site in Cairo, Egypt late Monday, Jan. 3, 2011. The

he said. "If there are laws that is an unjust to some, the state should correct many laws."

In the last couple years in particular, the country's Coptic Christian minority, which makes up 10 percent of the country's 80 million, has felt under siege following a string of incidents. In January a year ago, six Christians and a Muslim guard were killed in a drive-by shooting on

Coptic Christmas Eve in southern Egypt. Then in November, Christians rioted after government forces violently stopped the construction of a church near Cairo in a long-running dispute over restrictions on building Christian houses of worship. Two people died at the hands of security in the rare instance of Christian unrest in the capital.

In 2009, the government or-

dered the destruction of a quarter-million pigs as a dubious prevention measure against swine flu, devastating the livelihoods of Cairo's large community of Christian garbage collectors, who raised the animals to dispose of organic waste. The Christians saw it as an expression of Muslim disgust at pigs thinly disguised as a health concern.

After a suicide bomber at-

tacked worshippers in the northern city of Alexandria as they filed out of a midnight Mass at the Saints Church on Saturday, Christian rage exploded on the streets in riots and clashes with police. Protesters also attacked Muslim passers-by and a nearby mosque in an indication of the alienation they feel from the country's majority Muslims.

The protests Saturday and Sunday had an unprecedented edge of frustration: A common theme among protesters was that Christians would no longer be silent over their complaints. Security forces have turned out in force, but appear to be showing restraint, apparently to avoid further enflaming tensions.

"You want me to leave Egypt. I will not leave Egypt. Egypt is Coptic and will remain Coptic," one woman in her mid-40s, wrapped in a white sheet stained with blood from the victims, shouted Saturday in front of the Saints Church. "I have seen discrimination all my life. In college, at work. I am not going to take it any longer. Enough."

Christian anger, says rights activist Hossam Bahgat, stems in large part because they feel attacks against them can be carried out with impunity, something borne out by evidence of past incidents, especially in Egypt's impoverished hinterlands.

In a two-year study con-

ducted by his organization, the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, he documented 52 anti-Christian incidents between 2008 and 2010 and in none of them were the perpetrators punished. Instead security forces arbitrarily arrested a few people.

"Security then forces both sides to accept reconciliation at the expense of justice," he said, which gives the perpetrators a sense of impunity. "It's an invitation for these events to recur and the victims are left feeling victimized twice, first by those who did it and second by the government."

Egypt's government maintains Muslims and Christians are treated equally in the country and after these kinds of sectarian incidents loudly affirms its commitment to national unity.

But Christians have long complained that they are discriminated against in getting jobs in the government, universities—even the private sector. They also point to rising Muslim conservatism that they say affects government officials' dealings with Christians.

Youssef Sidhom, a prominent Coptic intellectual and editor of the weekly Watani newspaper, said that in Egyptian society there has been growing antipathy to coexisting with Christians, undermining such official pronouncements.

Israel arrests 2 UK consulate workers in Jerusalem

LONDON (AP)—Two local maintenance workers at the U.K. consulate in Jerusalem have been arrested by Israeli authorities on suspicion of selling weapons to Hamas militants, officials said Monday.

The arrests come after Israel's Shin Bet security service on Sunday disclosed that two alleged militants operating in east Jerusalem were arrested in November and indicted for buying weapons and planning to carry out attacks.

Israeli authorities have alleged the militants were scout-

ing locations for an attack, including the possibility of allegedly launching a missile at a packed soccer stadium in Israel during a match. Three other men were charged with arms dealing in the same case, according to a statement from the Shin Bet.

An Israeli diplomat said Monday he believes the two British consulate employees—confirmed by the British Foreign Office as Mohammed Hamadeh and Bilal Bakhatan—are linked to the Hamas plot. A British Foreign Office spokesman said he

believes the two maintenance workers are being investigated for allegedly selling illegal weapons, but that the U.K. is seeking confirmation from Israel.

"We are trying to figure out exactly what was their relation to this group of Hamas activists," the Israeli diplomat said on customary condition of anonymity. He added that an investigation was ongoing.

Israeli authorities have told British officials that the arrests are unrelated to the men's work at the consulate, a spokesman for Brit-

ain's Foreign Office said.

The British spokesman, also speaking on condition of anonymity according to departmental protocol, said the men were both local hires and were arrested last month. He said the U.K. is awaiting confirmation of their nationalities.

He added that Britain has confidence in the vetting process for all its employees at consulates and embassies, which is under constant review. He said "events like these" arrests will be looked at as part of the continual review.

WORLD BRIEFS

Cuban Santeria priests see 'reorganization'

HAVANA (AP)—Cuba's Santeria priests say 2011 will be a year of change and "reorganization," characterized by growing economic openness and threats of war and coups d'etat. Their annual New Year's forecast, released Monday by a panel of Afro-Cuban priests, coincides this year with the communist island's most significant economic reforms in a generation. "We are sure that there will be changes" in 2011, said the one of the group's top priests, Lazaro Cuesta. "We're certain that good moments are coming." In addition to predicting "commercial openings and an increase in exports and imports," the forecast also included warnings of war, "coups d'etat and sudden political changes," and the deaths of famous political personalities. Similar predictions were made by the group last year, but none came to pass in Cuba in 2010.

Nearly 4 million Sudanese to vote in referendum

JUBA, Sudan (AP)—Nearly 4 million people in Southern Sudan are registered to vote in an independence referendum to be held Jan. 9, the top election official said Monday. The electoral body is "100 percent prepared" for the vote and it will be held on time, said Justice Chan Reec Madut. Some observers had worried that South Sudan's poor infrastructure and political issues might delay the polls. Most people expect the oil-rich, mainly Christian south will vote for independence from the mainly Muslim north. The two sides fought a bloody civil war that stretched over two decades. Sunday's vote is the culmination of a peace deal that ended the conflict in 2005.

5 killed, 10 injured in Guatemala bus fire

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—Five people are dead and 10 others injured from a fire inside a Guatemalan passenger bus that police say may have been caused by an arson attack. National police spokesman Donald Gonzalez says investigators have not ruled out mechanical causes. But he acknowledges that some witnesses say the bus was attacked. Firefighter Carlos Hernandez told a local radio station Monday that someone tossed a fire bomb at the bus in the capital, Guatemala City.

Africa heads offer amnesty to Ivory Coast's Gbagbo

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—African leaders on Monday were offering Laurent Gbagbo an amnesty deal on condition he cedes the presidency peacefully to the internationally recognized winner of Ivory Coast's elections, an official said Monday.

The African heads of state traveled to Ivory Coast to give persuasion another chance before resorting to military intervention.

The presidents of Benin, Sierra Leone and Cape Verde also visited last week without result, and this time they were being joined by Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga. No developments were

immediately announced.

Results tallied by the country's electoral commission and certified by the United Nations showed Gbagbo lost the November election by a nearly 9-point margin to opposition leader Alassane Ouattara. Gbagbo has clung to power with the backing of the army, and human rights groups accuse his security forces of abducting and killing hundreds of political opponents. The U.N. says it also has been barred entry from two suspected mass graves.

U.S. officials said they remain willing to help Gbagbo make a "dignified exit," including re-

visiting the visa ban so he can travel to the United States and take up a possible teaching position, but only if he agrees to step down. They said the window of opportunity for that, however, is rapidly closing. Several other countries have also offered to provide a "soft landing" for Gbagbo, but he has refused and now appears to be digging in, officials said.

An official from the Kenyan prime minister's office said the renegade Ivorian leader would be guaranteed safety if he agrees to hand over power and chooses to stay in Ivory Coast or go elsewhere. The official, who

spoke on condition of anonymity because he did not have permission to speak with the press, did not have further details on the amnesty, but said the deal offered by the African leaders was non-negotiable.

The three visiting presidents represent the Economic Community of West African States, or ECOWAS, a 15-member regional bloc that is threatening military action to seat Ouattara. Kenya's prime minister is representing the African Union.

U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said the United States supports the envoy's mission.

Focus



Language and faces masked by The Virginian-Pilot

AP

In this frame grab taken from video provided to the Virginian-Pilot newspaper, U.S. Navy Capt. Owen Honors appears in one of a series of profanity-laced comedy sketches that were broadcast on the USS Enterprise via closed-circuit television.



Language and faces masked by The Virginian-Pilot

AP

In this frame grab taken from video provided to the Virginian-Pilot newspaper, U.S. Navy Capt. Owen Honors appears in one of a series of profanity-laced comedy sketches that were broadcast on the USS Enterprise via closed-circuit television.

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—Raunchy comedy videos made by a high-ranking Navy commander and shown to the crew of an aircraft carrier three or four years ago have suddenly proved an embarrassment to the Pentagon that could blight the officer's career.

The videos, released Sunday by a newspaper in this Navy port city, feature Capt. Owen Honors using gay slurs, pantomiming masturbation and staging suggestive shower scenes. They were played on the shipwide television system during weekly movie night when Honors was executive officer, or second in command, of the USS Enterprise. Honors has since become commander of the ship.

Over the weekend, the Navy at first downplayed the videos as "humorous skits," then called them "not acceptable" and said they are under investigation.

Asked if Honors' command of the Enterprise was at risk, Cmdr. Chris Sims of U.S. Fleet Forces Command told The Associated Press in an e-mail: "The investigation currently being conducted will provide the necessary information to make that decision in an informed manner."

The videos' existence was not news to Navy higher-ups. In a statement to the Virginian-Pilot on Friday, the Navy said its leadership had put a stop to videos with "inappropriate content" on the Enterprise about four years ago.

"They were probably hoping it would all go away, and it didn't and now they have to say something," said Michael Corgan, a career Navy officer who now teaches at Boston University.

Corgan said Honors was guilty not only of an error in judgment but of failing to recognize a changing Navy culture. "Standards shift, of course, and trimming your sails is some-

Racy videos raise questions about Navy culture

thing you have to do if you're going command people in the Navy," Corgan said. "This guy showed poor judgment."

The military has undergone a cultural shift in recent decades away from the loutish, frat-boy behavior that was exposed by the Tailhook scandal in 1991. It is now working to accommodate gays in its ranks with Congress' repeal of "don't ask, don't tell." Also, the Navy is opening its all-male submarine force to women this year.

Corgan said the repeal of don't ask, don't tell probably had nothing to do with the furor now: "What he did would have been dumb 30, 40 years ago."

Some sailors who served on the Enterprise have taken to Facebook to defend Honors and his video skits for providing a much-needed morale boost during long deployments at sea.

They portrayed Honors as a man who genuinely cared about his sailors and helped them blow off steam with corny and occasionally outrageous videos he concocted every week during six-month tours of duty in the Middle East at the height of the Iraq War. Maintaining morale is typically part of the XO's job.

"He was a caring professional and, yes, he has a sense of humor, but you need that on a boat," said Misty Davis, who served on the



In this undated photo released by the U.S. Navy, Navy Capt. Owen Honors is shown in an official portrait.

Enterprise from 2006 to 2010. The offending video was shown in 2007, and was a compilation of previous videos he had shown, she and others said.

"It's no worse than anything you'd see on 'Saturday Night Live' or 'The Family Guy,'"

Davis said Monday. "I used to watch all of them. They were freaking hilarious."

The Enterprise is in port in Norfolk and is awaiting deployment.

The Virginian-Pilot of Norfolk first reported on the videos

on Saturday and posted a version Sunday on its website, minus offensive language, with the faces of some sailors blurred. It was unclear why the videos are just now surfacing.

The Pilot quoted unidentified crew members as saying they raised concerns aboard the ship about the videos when they aired but were brushed off.

The elaborately produced video posted by the newspaper employs editing tricks to show Honors having a conversation with two disguised versions of himself. It shows same-sex sailors, naked from the shoulders up, showering together while Honors looks on. In other segments, Honors mimics masturbation and uses a slur to refer to homosexuals.

In an introduction to the video, Honors says: "Over the years I've gotten several complaints about inappropriate material during these videos, never to me personally but, gutlessly, through other channels."

Since the story broke, hundreds of current and past Enterprise crew members have created Facebook accounts to support Honors. Another site with far fewer "friends" condemns him and calls for his resignation.

"Capt. Honors is a very professional person, but he knew when to have fun," Colorado

native Jessica Zabawa wrote in an e-mail to the AP. She served on the Enterprise from 2007 to last September. "Capt. Honors knows when to be serious and when it's time to unwind."

Ryan Adams, now a student at Virginia Tech, left the Navy in 2009 after serving in 2006 and 2007 on the Enterprise. He said when sailors complained about food or living conditions, Honors heeded their complaints.

"Everyone I know who worked on the Enterprise is backing him 100 percent," said Adams. He called movie night on the Enterprise a "big event" that was usually enjoyed with pizza. "There was never a seat left in the mess," he said.

Every sailor interviewed said they had heard no complaints on board about Honors' skits.

The Navy put more emphasis on ethics and sexual harassment awareness after dozens of women complained they were groped and assaulted by drunken pilots at the 1991 convention in Las Vegas of the Tailhook Association, a group of naval aviators. Nearly 120 officers were implicated in various offenses.

The episode triggered the resignation of the Navy secretary and the early retirement of the chief of naval operations.

A telephone listing for Honors was not immediately available. No one answered the door at his home Monday. He is a 1983 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and was a naval aviator before holding command. He attended the U.S. Naval Fighter Weapons School, also known as Top Gun.

Adams, who worked in the Enterprise's nuclear reactor department, said he was especially grateful to Honors after he sought a speedy return to Virginia for his grandfather's funeral. Honors cut through the red tape and got Adams home.

"I just don't want a good man to go down like this," he said.

Campus Life

Private schools for the poor fill gap in S. Africa

By DONNA BRYSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Oct. 28, 2010 photo, bible study teacher Micheal Mpubane, left, speaks to pupils in a class at the Progressive Primary in Johannesburg.

AP

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Dintle Zulu wanted something better for her only child than the worn classrooms, demoralized teachers and defiant students she had faced herself.

So Zulu enrolled Samantha at an elite private school in a wealthy Johannesburg neighborhood, where she, then a cook, and her husband, a furniture salesman, struggled to pay the tuition. Five years ago, under pressure to pay up or withdraw Samantha, Zulu dropped into a modest school near the cafeteria where she worked.

The teacher told her to bring Samantha, now 13, to start the next day, and to worry about paying when she could. She now pays 380 rand (about \$50) a month, while private schools for the rich can easily run to more than \$1,000 a month.

As the public school system collapses in South Africa, a free market replacement is emerging: Private schools for the poor. Such schools are also coming up elsewhere in Africa and in the developing world. In South Africa, they cater to poor Africans left behind in a system that has struggled to close the gap apartheid created between white and black schools.

The picture is not all rosy: Some schools stay in business just long enough to collect parents' money, and there are questions about who ensures the schools are safe and deliver what they promise. The schools also lack the manicured playing fields and high-tech classrooms of private schools for the rich. But the pressure to stay in business means that they deliver the good grades and strong discipline parents demand.

Only a third of third-graders in South Africa meet the minimum literacy and numeracy standards, according to national test results. Last year, a third of those taking final-year exams failed.

"We must acknowledge that there is

poor teaching in many of our schools," education minister Angie Motshekga told reporters when last year's dismal exam results were announced. "Management in our schools is often weak and lacks leadership and commitment. Our systems are also often inefficient."

Researcher Ann Bernstein said she had long wondered why South African parents weren't taking to the streets to protest the poor education their children were getting. So a team of researchers from her independent Centre for Development and Enterprise set out to investigate no-frills private schools.

"Some parents are just voting with their feet," Bernstein said. Parents are "not apathetic. They're not sitting and waiting for the day the education system improves."

Over two years, her team found more than 100 private schools in poor neighborhoods of Johannesburg and rural areas in eastern South Africa. Most of them had been operating for more than a decade, surprising experts who had expected far fewer schools and assumed most went out of business in a few years.

A quarter of the schools Bernstein studied had not registered with the government, making them illegal. Parents who send their children to illegal schools have no guarantee state standards are being met or diplomas will be recognized.

Children are taught in abandoned factories and office buildings. The schools have aspirational names like Freedom and Phoenix.

In many cases, parents encourage teachers who impress them to open schools. Samantha's Progressive Primary dates to 1991, when a Christian school in downtown Johannesburg went out of business and parents persuaded several of its teachers to start their own school.

On average, the schools charged about 700 rand (\$100) a month, much less than wealthy private schools, but more than the 100 rand (\$15) a month for public schools in the same neighborhoods. After comparing assessment test results, Bernstein's researchers wrote in a report that "private schools are no worse than public schools, and significantly better in some areas."

At poor private schools, administrators at times have to be patient about getting paid, but parents are demanding. If kids' grades drop or a discipline problem crops up, the parents change schools, Bernstein said. As a result, the entrepreneurs who run such schools keep classes small and show little patience with teachers who don't perform, even if, to keep costs down, many of the teachers don't have the qualifications to work in public schools.

Qualified or not, teachers are dedicated, Bernstein said.

At Progressive, head teacher Sonja Kruger said that as a white South African, she was given the best that the state had to offer under apartheid. Now, she said, she has a responsibility to give back. She earns 7,000 rand (about \$1,000) a month after 15 years at Progressive, about half the average salary for a teacher in Johannesburg. Kruger started as the school's secretary and has taught for the last six years. Most of the other teachers and all the students are black.

"When you see the kids achieving, it's payback," Kruger said. "I'd say every single teacher that's here is passionate. They have to be, because they're not in it for the money."

Progressive Primary is in what used to be the headquarters of a chain of coffee shops, squeezed between a copy shop and a parking garage. Kruger has noticed similar schools opening in the neighborhood, and says the competi-

tion is good for poor kids.

"I don't see why, because they don't have money, their education shouldn't be as good as anyone else's," she said.

Progressive's motto: "Let us shape your child into a top achiever." It has sent graduates—with scholarships—on to some of Johannesburg's most demanding high schools.

When he speaks of his years at Progressive, Victor Tshilombo, 24, now a second-year medical student at Johannesburg's premier University of Witwatersrand, keeps returning, a note of astonishment in his voice, to the fact that he spoke no English when he arrived. He had been passed from year to year at his previous public school. Progressive teachers put him back five grades, and embarked on intensive lessons.

Tshilombo said he developed determination and confidence. That was important after he graduated from an elite Johannesburg public high school, when he had to work for two years as an army ambulance dispatcher because he did not have the money to go to medical school. Finally, Witwatersrand offered him a scholarship.

When he becomes a doctor and starts a family, he'll be able to afford more expensive schools, but he does not believe he'll find better than Progressive. He remembers the attention he got when he struggled, even though "my father wasn't rich. I don't think he even paid school fees on time."

At Progressive, 13-year-old Samantha praises her teacher for being "always present. He has never been late to school."

It may seem minor, but teacher absenteeism is a crisis in many public schools. Zulu does not blame the teachers entirely: Their salaries are low, and morale even lower. Most black teachers received the inferior education re-

served for blacks under apartheid, and now struggle to meet the new government's higher standards. They also battle in ill-equipped classrooms with students who seem ready to protest at the slightest provocation.

In the 1970s and 1980s in public schools, young protesters were celebrated for risking their lives to stand up to apartheid. Some of today's students seem to feel protest is their birthright.

"In Soweto, you know, we really are disrespectful to the teachers," Zulu said. "I still see kids roaming around the streets during school hours."

Bernstein said discipline is a key demand of parents at the schools she studied. Progressive's head teacher, Kruger, said the school respects the law against corporal punishment, but many parents ask that their children be hit if they misbehave.

Critics worry that such schools will only widen the gap between the haves and have-nots, as the most committed parents and the most promising students leave already troubled public schools for private ones. They also worry that governments will turn over the bulk of the responsibility of education to private schools, wealthy or poor.

"If the public system does not work for the poor, it is a failed state, then you're letting the market take over something that's basic and fundamental," said Wongani Grace Nkhoma of the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa. "States have to understand that they have the responsibility to provide education that's of good quality, to every child."

For next year, Samantha has been accepted at a competitive public high school with an emphasis on science and technology.

"I'm so ready for high school and all its challenges," Samantha said. "I do realize how lucky I am."

Life & Style

Oscar-nominated star Pete Postlethwaite dies at 64

LONDON (AP)—He could have stayed in teaching. That's what his parents wanted: it was the safe, secure route for a young man with working-class roots and a face few would describe as handsome.

But Pete Postlethwaite wanted more. He wanted to pursue his passion for acting and, at 24, he left teaching to train at the Bristol Old Vic theater. His parents remained skeptical, but when he was introduced to Queen Elizabeth II after a stellar 1980s performance with the Royal Shakespeare Company, even his mother was convinced he would make his mark.

It was an incredible ascent for Postlethwaite, a distinguished character actor with a remarkably craggy, timeworn face whose death at age 64 was confirmed Monday by Andrew Richardson, a longtime friend and journalist who documented the actor's fight against cancer. Richardson said the Oscar-nominated actor died Sunday.

Postlethwaite had little going for him when he started in an industry where good looks—think Robert Redford or George Clooney—are valued. He had few connections, a name that was hard to pronounce, and could distinguish himself only by his talent.

It was a subtle talent, hard to define, marked by an ability to completely inhabit a role, to convey a deep sense of burden with a glance or a shrug. There

were no pyrotechnics, nothing was overstated. But he had a powerful presence and authenticity on screen and on stage.

It was this that prompted director Steven Spielberg—who used Postlethwaite twice—to call him “probably the best actor in the world.”

Postlethwaite was part of a small coterie of British actors who came up together through the theater and found a measure of success in Hollywood. The group included Daniel Day-Lewis and Emma Thompson, longtime friends who starred with him in “In the Name of the Father,” a 1993 classic that earned Postlethwaite a best supporting actor Oscar nomination for his role as Day-Lewis' father.

That part drew heavily on Postlethwaite's ability to give a victim's troubles wider meaning. His character is wrongly imprisoned after his son implicates him in a deadly IRA bombing he did not commit. Postlethwaite's quiet sense of hurt and injustice helps carry the film, regarded as one of the finest to deal with the long conflict in Northern Ireland.

He branched out into movies and television work in the 1980s, most often taking roles as an occasionally menacing working-class figure.

He was instantly recognizable for his piercing eyes and prominent cheekbones, which gave him a lean, rugged look.



A Wednesday, June 9, 2004 photo from files showing British actor Peter Postlethwaite displaying his Order of the British Empire or OBE, shortly after the presentation at Buckingham Palace in London.

One critic said his cheekbones came “boiling out of his head like swollen knuckles.” He appeared in a wide variety of film and TV roles, with many British fans remembering his work in period dramas as well as his later Hollywood films.

He had recently been seen in the critically acclaimed film “Inception” and had worked with Spielberg on “The Lost World: Jurassic Park” and “Amistad” in performances that sparked Spielberg's extravagant compliment. He drew high praise for his starring role in “Brassed Off” in 1996. He also played a vicious crime boss in Ben Affleck's “The Town,” released last year, and will be seen this year in “Killing Bono.”

Over the years, some British actors who moved into the Oscar stratosphere were seduced by the glamour and moved to Hollywood. But Postlethwaite stayed away, living in recent years with his wife and two children in a farmhouse in rural England, where his comings and goings drew little more than a friendly smile from neighbors who took his presence for granted.

Postlethwaite did not become a household name in much of the world—he is said to have resisted an agent's efforts to come up with a stage name that would be easier to pronounce and remember—but he was honored by Queen Elizabeth II when he received an OBE award in 2004.

Friends and colleagues de-

scribed him as down-to-earth in a profession filled with overblown egos.

“Anyone who worked with him felt great affection for him,” actor David Schneider told BBC News. “He was very un-actory. Sort of like a national treasure. There is so much affection for him; he was a wonderful actor and a wonderful bloke.” He said Postlethwaite's skill and range would be appreciated more in hindsight.

Two years before his death, the actor realized a lifelong goal by playing King Lear at the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool, where he had been part of the company during his formative years.

Postlethwaite was a political activist known for his opposition to the war in Iraq and his calls to fight global warming. He used a wind turbine at his home to generate electricity.

His extended battle against cancer was documented in the local newspapers where he lived in rural Shropshire, 170 miles northwest of London. He had recently thanked the staff at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital for their care.

“They have been wonderful and I am grateful to them,” he told the Shropshire Star newspaper. “I cannot thank them enough for everything that they have done for me.”

He is survived by his wife, Jacqui, his son Will and daughter, Lily.

‘Forbidden Planet’ star Anne Francis dies at 80



This Nov. 8, 2006, file photo supplied by Warner Home Video shows actress Anne Francis posing with Robby the Robot at a screening to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the film, “Forbidden Planet,” in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actress Anne Francis, who was the love interest in the 1950s science-fiction classic “Forbidden Planet” and later was a sexy private eye in “Honey West” on TV, has died at age 80.

Francis died Sunday at a Santa Barbara nursing home, said Bill Guntle, a funeral director at McDermott-Crockett & Associates Mortuary in Santa Barbara.

Francis, who had surgery and chemotherapy after being diagnosed with lung cancer in 2007, died of complications of pancreatic cancer, her daughter, Jane Uemura, told the Los Angeles Times.

Francis, a stunningly beautiful blonde with a prominent beauty mark, appeared opposite such stars as Spencer Tracy, Paul Newman, Robert Taylor and Glenn Ford in some of the most popular films of the 1950s. But “Forbidden Planet” and “Honey West” made her reputation.

“Forbidden Planet” was hailed in Leonard Maltin's “2006 Movie Guide” as “one of the most ambitious and intelligent films of its genre.”

A science-fiction retelling

of Shakespeare's “The Tempest,” the 1956 film had Leslie Nielsen and other space travelers visiting a planet where expatriate scientist Walter Pidgeon, his daughter (Francis) and their helper, Robby the Robot, built a settlement.

Before filming began, the actors held a meeting and agreed “to be as serious about this film as we could be,” Francis said in a 1999 interview.

“We could have hammed it up, but we wanted to be as sincere as we could,” she said.

In “Honey West,” which aired from 1965 to 1966, Francis' private detective character—who kept a pet ocelot, a wildcat—was a female James Bond: sexy, stylish and as good with martial arts as she was with a gun.

She was nominated for an Emmy for the role, which lasted 30 episodes.

“A lot of people speak to me about Honey West,” Francis recalled. “The character made young women think there was more they could reach for. It encouraged a lot of people.”

After a childhood career in New York radio and television and on the Broadway stage,

Francis arrived in Hollywood when she landed a movie contract at MGM. She later went to 20th Century-Fox, then re-

turned to MGM, and the two big studios afforded her the chance to act opposite the biggest male stars of the day.

Death & Funeral Announcement

This is to inform the family and friends of

Manuel Sablan Ada



the son of Jose Terlaje Ada better known as Josen Aguas, has passed away on Monday, January 03, 2011 at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Nightly rosary is being said at 8:00pm at Chalan Kanoa District 1 Social Hall.

On Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 10:00a.m., our beloved will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. immediately followed by interment service at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank You yan Si Yu'us Ma'ase Ginen I Familia

Judge will rule if doc is tried in Jackson's death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A doctor who had been hired for a dream job as Michael Jackson's highly paid private physician now has his reputation in tatters and his future on the line as he faces a preliminary hearing to decide if he will stand trial for involuntary manslaughter in the death of Jackson.

The hearing for Dr. Conrad Murray, a Houston cardiologist who also has a clinic in Las Vegas, is set to begin Tuesday—just days after a prosecutor said he expects the defense to claim Jackson killed himself.

Murray, 57, had been hired to help Jackson prepare and to accompany him on his European comeback tour entitled "This is It."

But Jackson died between rehearsals for the show, and Murray is accused of gross negligence when he administered the powerful anesthetic propofol, which Jackson had been demanding to get to sleep.

The criminal case, with its expected focus on Jackson's longtime prescription drug abuse, could undermine his estate's efforts to rehabilitate the pop star's image after his death on June 25, 2009.

Managers of the estate have sought to burnish his legend with the release of a concert movie using rehearsal footage from the ill-fated show. They also released a new album, "Michael," featuring songs he left behind.

But testimony at the preliminary hearing is likely to open doors they preferred to keep closed.

In a last-minute twist, Deputy District Attorney David Walgren said he expects the defense to claim at a possible trial that the sleep-starved Jackson killed himself by using a syringe to self-administer additional propofol when Murray left the room.

"I do think it's clear the defense is operating under the theory that the victim, Michael Jackson, killed himself," Walgren said last week at a separate hearing. "They don't want to say it, but that's the direction in which they are going."



In this April 5, 2010, file photo Dr. Conrad Murray appears at a procedural hearing in Los Angeles. AP

Defense attorney J. Michael Flanagan refused to comment on the prosecutor's remarks. The issue was not expected to arise until trial because the defense doesn't plan to present any evidence during the preliminary hearing.

Prosecutors will contend propofol is only supposed to be used in hospital situations for surgery, and that patients given the drug must be constantly monitored. Experts are expected to testify at the hearing that it was reckless to administer the anesthetic in a private home without proper equipment. If convicted, Murray could face as many as four years in prison and the loss of his medical license. Already in financial distress, he also faces a wrongful death lawsuit by Jackson's father.

Murray has pleaded not guilty, and his lawyer has said that nothing he did should have harmed Jackson.

An autopsy report found Jackson died from an overdose of propofol. In

a statement to police, Murray acknowledged giving Jackson the drug and other sedatives to help him sleep then briefly leaving his bedside.

Cellular phone records show Murray made at least three personal calls around the time Jackson was stricken.

Murray's lawyers are seeking tests of residue found in two syringes retrieved from Jackson's bedroom. One was attached to an intravenous bag and the other was broken on the floor.

Thirty prosecution witnesses are scheduled to testify at the two-week preliminary hearing before Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor. If the case does go to trial, many legal observers have wondered if an unbiased jury can be found in the case of Jackson, one of the most idolized entertainers of all time.

His death at the age of 50 was one of the most shocking passings of a music giant since Elvis Presley died in 1977. Drugs were involved in both cases.

Toni Braxton's family in new WE reality series



In this March 6, 2010 file photo, U.S. singer Toni Braxton performs during the Java Jazz concert festival in Jakarta, Indonesia. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Toni Braxton is the latest celebrity to open her home to reality television cameras.

Braxton, the Grammy-winning singer of "Un-Break My Heart" and "You're Makin' Me High," will appear in "Braxton Family Values" on the WE network starting in April. Braxton's sisters—Traci, Towanda, Trina and

Tamar—are all aspiring singers.

The WE network appeals chiefly to women, and with Oprah Winfrey's new OWN network going on the air last weekend, it is looking to sharpen its focus for viewers. The network said it will emphasize programs that feature families.

WE executives said they will also

renew the series "Downsized," about a family struggling through tough economic times. "Staten Island Cakes," which is repetitive of other cable reality programs about high-end bakers, will debut this summer. The show is about a 21-year-old baker whose mother and sister work for him—and who is bossed by them at home.

The dynamic of four women trying to follow the 43-year-old Braxton into show business—with varying levels of success—appealed to WE executives. The network's research indicated that programs about families, often with a humorous touch, is a niche worth exploring.

On Jan. 25, WE is debuting a series about Joan Rivers and daughter, Melissa, along with "A Stand Up Mother," about comedian Tammy Pescatelli trying to balance family and career.

"Our goal is to put on families that are big personalities, who are interesting, entertaining, full of drama and conflict and you can't wait to tune in next week," Kim Martin, the network's president and general manager, said recently.

WE believes family members who are emotionally invested in one another will make for situations that ring truer than reality fare where strangers are forced together in contrived circumstances, said John Miller, the network's programming chief.

"Our goal is not to look at family viewing," Martin said. "Our goal is to show families, because women define themselves by the relationships in their lives." Viewers relate to the family in "Downsized," particularly the boy who sold his baseball mitt to raise money, Martin said. The show's audience was about twice the size of what WE had previously aired on Saturday nights, she said.

'Little Fockers' leads weekend with \$25.8 million



In this film publicity image released by Universal Pictures, Robert De Niro, left, and Daisy Tahan are shown in a scene from "Little Fockers." AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Little Fockers" led the box office over the New Year's holiday with \$25.8 million, finishing as the No. 1 movie for the second-straight weekend.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1. **"Little Fockers,"** Universal, \$25,766,485, 3,554 locations, \$7,250 average, \$102,576,190, two weeks.
2. **"True Grit,"** Paramount, \$24,416,515, 3,083 locations, \$7,920 average, \$86,670,382, two weeks.
3. **"Tron: Legacy,"** Disney, \$18,756,973, 3,365 locations, \$5,574 average, \$131,304,844, three weeks.
4. **"Yogi Bear,"** Warner Bros., \$12,385,000, 3,515 locations, \$3,523 average, \$65,755,336, three weeks.
5. **"The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader,"** Fox, \$10,252,775, 2,948 locations, \$3,478 average, \$86,926,397, four weeks.
6. **"The Fighter,"** Paramount, \$10,005,066, 2,534 locations, \$3,948 average, \$46,388,853, four weeks.
7. **"Tangled,"** Disney, \$9,803,091, 2,582 locations, \$3,797 average, \$167,821,986, six weeks.
8. **"Gulliver's Travels,"** Fox, \$9,300,099, 3,089 locations, \$3,011 average, \$27,454,506, two weeks.
9. **"Black Swan,"** Fox Searchlight, \$8,881,595, 1,553 locations, \$5,719 average, \$47,807,791, five weeks.
10. **"The King's Speech,"** Weinstein Co., \$7,775,463, 700 locations, \$11,108 average, \$22,932,401, six weeks.
11. **"The Tourist,"** Sony, \$6,625,759, 2,756 locations, \$2,404 average, \$54,633,191, four weeks.
12. **"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1,"** Warner Bros., \$4,651,699, 1,732 locations, \$2,686 average, \$283,533,215, seven weeks.
13. **"How Do You Know,"** Sony, \$4,547,420, 2,483 locations, \$1,831 average, \$25,040,894, three weeks.
14. **"Megamind,"** Paramount, \$630,940, 764 locations, \$826 average, \$144,192,018, nine weeks.
15. **"Unstoppable,"** Fox, \$524,921, 450 locations, \$1,166 average, \$79,468,486, eight weeks.
16. **"The Social Network,"** Sony, \$464,543, 249 locations, \$1,866 average, \$93,222,026, 14 weeks.
17. **"Burlesque,"** Sony Screen Gems, \$444,238, 330 locations, \$1,346 average, \$37,733,561, six weeks.
18. **"Due Date,"** Warner Bros., \$424,119, 404 locations, \$1,050 average, \$99,231,922, nine weeks.
19. **"Red,"** Summit, \$289,720, 303 locations, \$956 average, \$89,505,187, 12 weeks.
20. **"127 Hours,"** Fox Searchlight, \$284,373, 103 locations, \$2,761 average, \$10,434,435, nine weeks.

Winfrey's network gets a warm welcome from viewers

NEW YORK (AP)—On its debut weekend, Oprah Winfrey's cable network got some healthy sampling from viewers.

During the three-hour block beginning at 8 p.m. EST on Saturday, OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network averaged 1 million viewers, according to preliminary Nielsen Co. figures released Monday by the network.

OWN said that, during Saturday's 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. EST hours, the network ranked third

among all ad-supported cable networks in the 25-to-54-year-old audience demo. OWN was airing episodes of its reality series, "Season 25: Oprah Behind the Scenes." Only ESPN and USA Network ranked higher.

Sunday in prime time, the network averaged 822,000 viewers.

OWN, which launched at 12 noon EST on Saturday, is available in 80 percent of homes with cable.

In this May 3, 2010 file photo, Oprah Winfrey arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala in New York. On its debut weekend, Oprah Winfrey's cable network got some healthy sampling from viewers.

AP



Girl with abusive home life should try to help herself

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm dating a 15-year-old girl who was seriously physically abused in the past. She and her mom had to move away for a while, but have now been told by Department of Children and Family Services that it's safe for them to move back with her father, who abused her.



After seeing what goes on in this house and hearing her describe how they treat her, I think the physical abuse has changed to mental and emotional abuse. I'm not sure what to do because I'm 18 and it's "illegal" that we are dating. It scares me that they can use anything against me.

Dear Abby

WHAT TO DO?

DEAR WHAT TO DO?: You are not in a position to do anything yourself. If you try to get help for your girlfriend, her parents could create problems for you that would last a lifetime. However, that doesn't mean you shouldn't encourage the girl to help herself by talking to a counselor, a trusted teacher or a clergyperson about the difficulties she's experiencing at home. If she does, they are mandated by law to report abuse. And this is a family that's already been in the system.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been unable to ask "Mary" out—or at least see if she's into me—because we both work at the same place. I am not the type to be shy with my feelings, but with her it's different. When I see her, I forget everything else. It's as if my whole world stops when I see her smile. She's amazing!

I want to ask her out, but I'm unsure how to, considering that I am a woman. She does not know how I feel about her. What should I do?

HAS IT BAD IN ARIZONA

DEAR HAS IT BAD: First, see if there are regulations in your employee handbook that discourage employees from dating. If there aren't, go slow and let Mary get to know you as a friend before trying to start a romantic relationship. And before declaring your feelings, be sure that a lesbian relationship is one that your co-worker would welcome.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of three years, "Sam," came home from basic training in the Army and told me he wanted to go active. (He was part of the National Guard.) He has asked me to go with him and I agreed, but in order to do that we have to be married.

I love Sam very much and we have talked about marriage before, but not elopement. He hasn't really "proposed" because he doesn't have a ring. We will be married, but without a real wedding—yet.

I have no problem with this. It's a bit unconventional, but I love Sam and want to go with him. It will be an opportunity to travel, and I could finish my degree online.

The problem is, how would I define us as a couple? When we move onto the base, I'm worried people will see my ringless finger and ask questions. What should I tell them? And when we do have the actual wedding, what will that be called?

DON'T WANT TO BE EMBARRASSED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR DON'T WANT TO BE EMBARRASSED: Not all married women wear wedding rings, although most do. If you are afraid there will be questions if you're not wearing one, you and Sam might consider getting a used gold band to wear until he can buy you something else. If that doesn't appeal to you, then you'll just have to tell people that you are married and you have the license to prove it. (I doubt it will come to that.) And when you and Sam are finally able to have the wedding of your dreams, call it a renewal of your marriage vows because that will be accurate.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

'Bachelor' Brad Womack says 2nd time's a charm

NEW YORK (AP)—Brad Womack says his second turn as "The Bachelor" turned out better than the first. The 38-year-old bar owner can't divulge the outcome of the reality dating show, but he does hint things are good.

"I can say I did fall in love. I'm a happy guy," he said. Womack shocked and angered many fans of the show in 2007 when he rejected both finalists, Jenni Croft and DeAnna Pappas. Afterward, Womack began seeing a therapist to work on what he describes as a commitment-phobia.

He was surprised when ABC called to see if he was interested in joining the show again.

"I was old news. I didn't expect a phone call and then once ABC called, I was shocked but pleasantly so," he said. "I jumped right in and thought, 'Here's a second chance that no one ever gets in their life.'"

Even with the opportunity

for a do-over, Womack was prepared to walk away again if he didn't find the right girl.

"I said, 'You know, I'll give this my very, very best effort, but if at the end I'm not feeling what I should feel to either propose or to continue a relationship, I'll walk away again,'" he said. "Of course that ruffled some feathers, but that's who I am."

"The Bachelor," kicking off its 15th season Monday night, has experienced a spike in ratings and interest in recent seasons, with its contestants becoming paparazzi magnets who are often written about in tabloids and on blogs.

Womack is hoping his life doesn't change too much because of the show.

"I'm a very private person believe it or not. Yes, I went on a reality show—I get it—but I get really, really shy."

The finale is scheduled to air in March.

In this undated publicity image released by ABC, Brad Womack from "The Bachelor," is shown. The series premieres Monday, Jan. 3, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. EST on ABC.

AP



David Arquette's rep says the actor is in rehab

NEW YORK (AP)—David Arquette's publicist says the actor has entered rehab. In an e-mail Monday to The Associated Press, Cindy Guagenti says she has "no further information at this time."

Arquette and Courteney Cox announced their separation in

October after 11 years of marriage. They have a 6-year-old daughter, Coco.

The 39-year-old actor has appeared in the "Scream" movies and co-starred alongside Drew Barrymore in the 1999 romantic comedy "Never Been Kissed."

The couple met on the set of

the film "Scream" in 1996 and married three years later. While the pair are inserting some space into their personal lives, their careers remain intertwined.

They are co-starring in the fourth installment of the "Scream" series, which is due out this year.

Bieber's multiplatinum-selling album, "My World 2.0," is up for a Grammy for best pop vocal album; he's also up for best new artist.

The February issue of Vanity Fair hits newsstands in New York and Los Angeles on Jan. 6 and nationally on Jan. 11.

he begins to "think about all the things I didn't have time to think about during the day—like family and God." Bieber says he doesn't always have time to think about these important things because "you just get caught up (in everything else) during the day."

Bieber says he sometimes suffers from insomnia

NEW YORK (AP)—While many girls dream about Justin Bieber at night, the singing sensation is struggling to fall asleep.

The 16-year-old tells Vanity Fair magazine that sometimes he suffers from insomnia. Bieber says his "mind races" at night and it happens because



AP

In a Nov. 17, 2010 file photo, actor David Arquette arrives at GQ magazine's 2010 "Men of the Year" party in Los Angeles.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



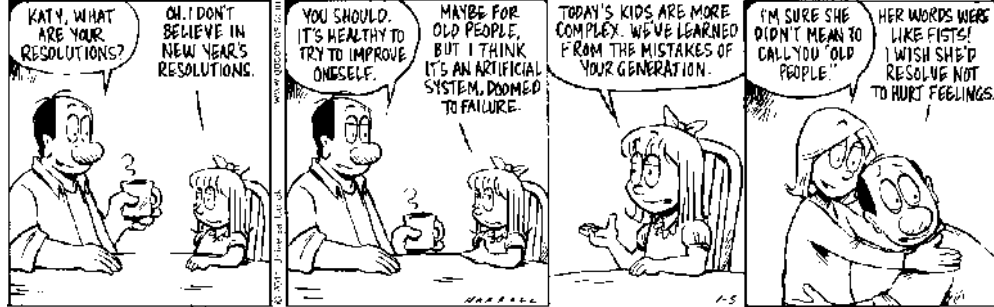
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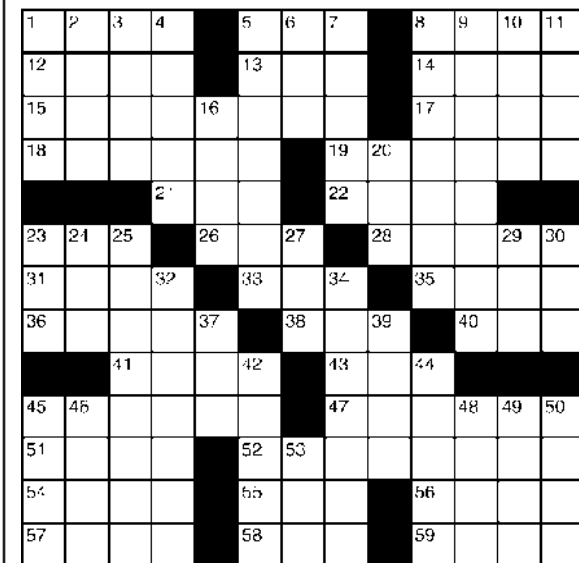
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Dresses in
5 Navy rank (Abbr.)
8 Early birds?
12 Colorful fish
13 Deteriorate
14 Chick's sound
15 Prepare
17 Sicilian spouter
18 Cleans the cookware
19 Not as small
21 Wildebeest
22 Therefore
23 Joke
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- 38 Three on a sundial
40 Space
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43 Director
45 On the beach
47 Thwart
51 Military vehicle
52 Fare
54 Asian nursemaid
55 The whole enchilada
56 Approximately
57 Carnival attraction
58 Firmament
59 Trawler equipment
23 Bush league?
24 "I'll take that as —"
25 Advance
27 Will Smith biopic
29 Rx safety grip.
30 Kreskin's claim
32 Stanza
34 Above all others
37 Round Table address
39 Tittle
42 "La To lette" artist
44 Hose material
45 Open somewhat
46 Big rig
48 Oliver Twist's request
49 "Meet Me — Louis"
50 Hollywood clasher
53 Wapiti

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-5



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5959! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/relay phones. (18+ or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: January Jones, 33; Bradley Cooper, 36; Diane Keaton, 65; Robert Duvall, 80

Happy Birthday: You don't have to impress anyone nor should you try. It's up to you to call the shots. Originality doesn't have to be expensive—use your imagination and do the work yourself. Passion is on the rise and adding a little romance to your life will improve your attitude. Your numbers are 4, 11, 14, 22, 27, 30, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Sharing responsibilities will make the difference. Someone may try to stand in your way. If you have looked at every angle and have a response for every negative, you will get favorable results. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your emotions will hold you back. Put your differences aside and strive for perfection in all that you do and you cannot lose. A change in the way you do things will result, once you realize the cost involved and who is being greedy. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Positive action and information will bring you good results, even if someone is trying to sabotage what you are trying to accomplish. Your determination, creativity and originality will separate you from everyone else. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Try your hand at something new and you will find a way to earn extra income. Love and romance are on the rise but honesty will play an important role. Don't promise anything you don't intend to honor. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Socializing will lead to personal and professional opportunities. Your ability to adapt to whatever you are faced with will impress someone in a key position. A tradeshow, conference or geographical region that caters to your talents is a must. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let work bog you down when you should be focusing on your hobbies, friends, family or your lover. Nurture what's important to you. Changes to your home life will lead to a brighter and more inviting future. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Accept the inevitable but monitor every step of the way. Hold on to as much control as you can in order to look out for your own interests. Keeping the peace is one of your finer qualities and will come in extremely handy right now. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Getting together with peers will lead to decisions that can help you move forward with your plans. Your ideas and the way you express what you want to do will lead to furthering your interests. Travel for business will pay off. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It will be easy to send the wrong message if you say something out of turn or reveal information that should be kept secret. Changes at home will be a direct result of something you say to someone you depend on for comfort or money. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've got everything going for you, so take advantage of your good fortune.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Talk to people who can contribute to your goals and make changes that will give you greater freedom to excel. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't fall for someone's poor-me attitude or idle threats. Stop making excuses for being different or taking a path that others might not consider. Once you establish what you can do and how you can accomplish your goals, you will excel. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Interaction will lead to someone you want to either work with or at least get to know better. Your creativity is high and your ability to get others to look at what you are trying to accomplish will pay off. ★★★★★

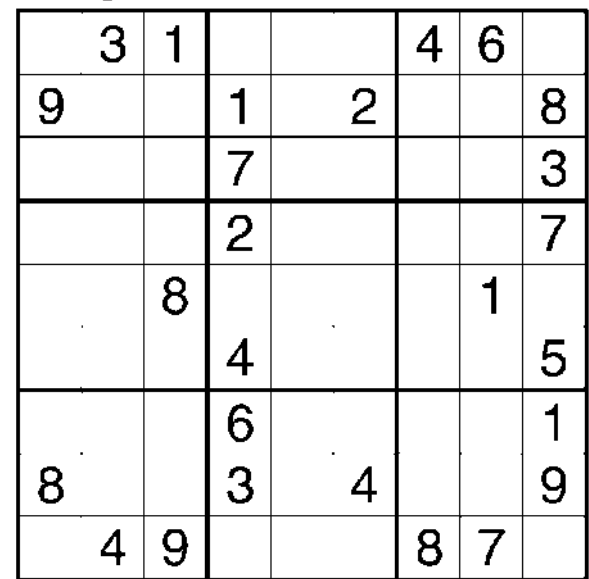
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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

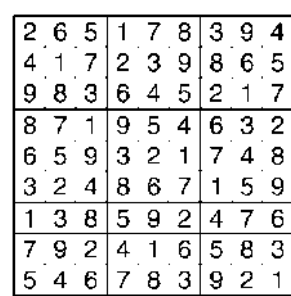


Difficulty Level ★★

1/65

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID
QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letter letters spell the Wonderword.

ABSOLUTE ZERO

Solution: 8 letters



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Yesterday's Answer: Lifestyle

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution:
Doubting Thomas

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WORLD RESORT

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CLOSE DATE: Jan. 7, 2010

POSITION: Accounting Supervisor/Assistant Manager
SALARY: \$6.00 - \$7.50

Qualifications: Graduate from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in accounting or a closely related field and three (3) years of professional accounting experience with supervisory experience preferred. CPA strongly recommended but not required.

OPEN DATE: Dec. 30, 2010
CLOSE DATE: Jan. 7, 2010

POSITION: Prim/Lifeguard
SALARY: \$5.05 per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and First-aid and lifeguard certifications preferred, but not required. Sports, recreation, and hospitality industry experience also a plus.

OPEN DATE: Dec. 30, 2010
CLOSE DATE: Jan. 7, 2010

POSITION: Prim/Kid's College Assistant
SALARY: \$5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and First-aid and lifeguard certifications preferred, but not required Sports, recreation, and childcare experience also a plus.

OPEN DATE: Dec. 30, 2010
CLOSE DATE: Jan. 7, 2010

POSITION: Gift Shop Cashier
SALARY: \$5.05/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and one (1) year of cashier (or related field) and customer service experience preferred.

OPEN DATE: Dec. 30, 2010
CLOSE DATE: Jan. 7, 2010

POSITION: Personnel Assistant
SALARY: \$5.05 - \$6.00/per hour

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent and experience in resident and nonresident employee processing required. Knowledge of government regulations and licenses preferred.

OPEN DATE: Dec. 30, 2010
CLOSE DATE: Jan. 7, 2010

POSITION: Local Market Manager
SALARY: \$20,000 - \$25,000/per annum

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■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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James, Wade power Heat to win over Bobcats



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—LeBron James scored 38 points, Dwyane Wade added 31 and the Miami Heat dominated the second half to beat the short-handed Charlotte Bobcats 96-82 on Monday night for their 11th straight road win.

Playing for the first time against Paul Silas, his first NBA coach in Cleveland, James scored 26 of his points in the second half and added nine rebounds. Wade grabbed 11 boards in Miami's 18th win in 19 games.

Charlotte played without starting forward Gerald Wallace (ankle) and center Nazr Mohammed (knee) the same day tests revealed backup big man DeSagana Diop is lost for the season with a ruptured Achilles' tendon.

With Kwame Brown the only healthy center, the Bobcats fell apart offensively, missing 18 straight shots bridging the second and third quarters.

Stephen Jackson scored 22 points and D.J. Augustin added 16 for the Bobcats, who shot 38 percent from the field with 15 turnovers.

It was a day of awards for the Heat, with James and Wade sharing the Eastern Conference player of the month award, Wade named the East's player of the week and Erik Spoelstra picking up the coach of the month honor.

After worrying before the game that his players might get complacent amid their hot streak, Spoelstra had some concerns early in his 200th game on the bench.

Charlotte, one of the league's worst offensive teams, shot 63 percent in the first quarter behind Jackson's 12 points. The Bobcats led by seven in the second and went up 41-35 on Gerald Henderson's hoop with 4:05 left.

But Miami clamped down defensively and by the time the Bobcats got another shot to fall—Augustin's 3-pointer with 5:30 left in the third—Miami led 61-51.

James later made four straight shots as the lead ballooned to 78-59 heading into the fourth.

After the Bobcats cut the deficit to 80-69, James beat the shot clock by swishing a 30-footer along the left baseline while double teamed. He then stole a pass and went in for a reverse dunk on the next possession and Miami had locked up matching the second-longest road winning streak in franchise history.

James, whose Cavaliers lost here twice last season, revealed before the game players refer to themselves as the "Heatles" as they played in front of a rare sellout crowd in Charlotte.

"Off of the Beatles," James said. "Every time we take our show on the road, we bring a great crowd out."

This time, James took out his former coach, whom he credited for "learning how to be a professional on and off the court" as a rookie and second-year player in Cleveland.

Silas, who dropped to 2-2 since replacing the fired Larry Brown, had little to work with against a dominant team on a roll as owner Michael Jordan watched courtside.

Wallace was back on the shelf after playing in two games following a five-game absence for a sprained left ankle. The 2010 All-Star, who also has a bone bruise, aggravated the injury in practice on Sunday and Silas said he'll be out "a few games."



Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) drives between Charlotte Bobcats' Dominic McGuire (5) and Shaun Livingston (2) in the second half of the Heat's 96-82 win in an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, Jan. 3, 2011.

Mohammed was scratched about an hour before the game with a bruised right knee, and the Bobcats were outrebounded 46-35 in their second straight loss.

Joel Anthony had 11 rebounds in Miami's sixth straight win to help offset an off night from Chris Bosh, who had 11 points and four rebounds on 4-of-9 shooting.

Magic 110, Warriors 90

At Orlando, Florida, Hedo Turkoglu had 10 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists, and Dwight Howard added 22 points and 17 rebounds as Orlando beat Golden State.

Jason Richardson scored 20 points for the Magic, who had 76 points in the second half after trailing 53-44 at halftime.

Monta Ellis led Golden State with 20 points and Dorell Wright added 17 points.

Celtics 96, Timberwolves 93

At Boston, Paul Pierce scored 23 points to help Boston overcome a double-digit deficit—and another double-digit rebounding performance by Kevin Love—to beat Minnesota.

Love had 24 rebounds and 12 points, but he airballed a jumper with just over a minute left and Minnesota trailing by one. Michael Beasley scored 19, including Minnesota's last eight points, but his desperation 3-pointer at the buzzer bounced harmlessly off the backboard.

Ray Allen scored 20, Glen Davis had 17 points and Rajon Rondo added 16 assists for the Celtics, who haven't lost to the Timberwolves since they traded Kevin Garnett to Boston in the summer of 2007.

Hornets 84, 76ers 77

At New Orleans, David West scored

17 points as New Orleans held on to beat Philadelphia.

Paul scored 15 points, using a speedy left-to-right dribble on a clutch driving

NBA BRIEFS

Bobcats lose Diop for season with Achilles' tear

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Just as DeSagana Diop started to get increased playing time under new coach Paul Silas, the center has been lost for the season with a ruptured right Achilles' tendon. Tests revealed the injury on Monday, three days after Diop was sidelined in the second quarter of a loss to Golden State. Diop had been stuck on the bench under Larry Brown for much of the past two seasons. But the 7-footer played 23 minutes and blocked three shots in Silas' debut against Detroit last week. Diop, who played under Silas in Cleveland, had five rebounds in 22 minutes against

the Cavaliers two nights later. "He was going to get a lot of playing time. He was enthused, upbeat. It's just too bad that it had to happen at this time," Silas said. "He hadn't played a lot, but he knew he was going to play for me. It's just a shame." Diop's injury leaves the Bobcats with only two true centers, Nazr Mohammed and Kwame Brown. But Silas said it wasn't certain they'll look to add a big man. "I'm not sure. Kwame is going to have to play a lot," Silas said. "I still have Nazr and Dominic (McGuire) can play smaller centers. We'll just have to see how it goes. If we can't get it done with those two guys we're certainly going to have to look at it."

Sprained knee to sideline Gallinari

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Knicks say forward Danilo Gallinari is expected to miss two to three weeks with a sprained left knee. Gallinari was hurt Sunday during the fourth quarter of a 98-92 victory over Indiana when Pacers swingman Brandon Rush lost his balance after driving for a layup and his right shoulder collided with Gallinari's knee. Gallinari said after the game he didn't think the injury was much to worry about, and an MRI exam on Monday confirmed it was only a mild sprain. The forward from Italy is fourth on the team with 15.3 points per game.

Union finds no rule-breaking by agent

By RONALD BLUM
AP SPORTS WRITER



A person familiar with a letter sent from the union to Major League Baseball tells The Associated Press the players' association has found agent Scott Boras did not violate union rules when his company made loans to a Dominican prospect.

Players' association head Michael Weiner said the union responded Dec. 23 to a letter sent by the commissioner's office expressing concern about the loans, following a New York Times report on them in November.

Neither Weiner nor Rob Manfred, MLB's executive vice president of labor relations, would comment on the

contents of the letter.

But a person familiar with it, speaking on condition of anonymity because the letter has not been made public, said the union concluded it had authority over agent matters and that Boras' actions did not break rules in place at the time.

Boras' company made loans worth about \$70,000 to shortstop Edward Salcedo in stages from late 2007 through 2009. The player was initially represented by Boras, left for another agent, and then returned to Boras. Union regulations in effect at the time prohibited loans if they were made to induce a player to be represented by that agent.

The players' association establishes regulations for player agents. "We are in compliance with MLB-

PA rules," Boras said in an e-mail to the AP.

Weiner said in the letter to MLB that union and management should have a broader dialogue over Dominican matters.

Boras negotiated a minor league contract for Salcedo with Cleveland in February 2008 that included a \$2.9 million signing bonus. That agreement fell through when Salcedo couldn't obtain a visa because of a lack of documents confirming his identity.

Salcedo then switched to a new agent, Edgar Mercedes, and signed a minor league contract with Atlanta in February that called for a \$1.6 million signing bonus payable in installments. Salcedo switched back to Boras last April.

Massage therapists sue Favre, Jets over texts



NEW YORK (AP)—Two massage therapists sued Brett Favre on Monday, saying they lost their part-time jobs with the New York Jets after complaining about sexually suggestive text messages from the veteran quarterback.

Claiming they were subjected to sexual harassment and job discrimination, Christina Scavo and Shannon O'Toole are seeking unspecified damages from Favre, the Jets and a Jets massage coordinator.

While the women don't say they received any messages directly from Favre, he referred to Scavo in a message proposing a meeting with her and a third, unidentified massage therapist, the lawsuit says.

"Kinda lonely tonight," he added in a subsequent message to the third masseuse, the lawsuit said. "I guess I have bad intentions."

The team declined to comment. Favre's agent didn't immediately return a telephone message.

The lawsuit comes five days after the NFL fined Favre \$50,000 for not being forthright in an investigation into allegations that he sent lewd text messages and photos to former Jets game hostess Jenn Sterger when they both worked for the team in 2008.

The league's investigation went on for months as the three-time MVP staggered through his 20th NFL season, fighting injuries as he led Minnesota in a disappointing season. Favre's consecutive starts streak was eventually snapped at 297 in December and he sat out the Vikings' final game, a loss to Detroit on Sunday. Afterward he said he's retiring—for good, this time.

The NFL also reviewed media reports that Favre pursued two massage therapists who worked at the Jets' facility in 2008, but the league said that claim could not be substantiated because people with "potentially relevant information" wouldn't cooperate with investigators. O'Toole's and Scavo's lawyer, David Jaroslawicz, said he told investigators about the information his clients had.

The two women worked for years at the Jets training camp and for various players individually, sometimes giving massages at players' homes, according to the lawsuit. O'Toole brought Scavo into the Jets fold, Jaroslawicz said.

After Scavo and an unidentified colleague gave massages at the training camp in 2008, Favre sent the colleague a text message saying, "Brett here you and crissy want to get together I'm all alone," the lawsuit said.

Jaroslawicz declined to identify the massage therapist who allegedly received the messages.

Scavo told her husband, Joseph, about the messages. He promptly told Favre to back off and apologize, according to the lawsuit.

The husband got a brush-off from Favre, and his wife and O'Toole got blackballed by the team, the lawsuit says.

The Jets stopped calling the women for work, initially offering such excuses as having moved the training camp, Jaroslawicz said.

After the allegations about Favre chasing Jets masseuses surfaced in media reports, the team's massage coordinator, Lisa Ripi, sent Scavo a series of e-mails referring to Favre as "a pervert" but ripping Scavo for not having kept



Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre walks into the locker room after the Vikings lost, 20-13, in an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions in Detroit, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011.

ing the matter quiet, the lawsuit says.

"There are ways to handle things in a professional manner and ways to be compensated not in public. ... All this nonsense is unnecessary," Ripi wrote, according to the lawsuit. "For sure feel horrible that u had to go thru that w a pervert. ... He was wrong on all counts...and we cldve helped u a lot more at that time."

Meanwhile, Ripi told O'Toole to "keep your mouth shut" and declared that neither O'Toole nor Scavo would ever work for the team again, the lawsuit says.

Jaroslawicz said his clients had held off on suing while awaiting the results of the NFL investigation, but they decided to go ahead after the probe ended in what they saw as a token fine.

Allegations about Favre's below-the-belt behavior initially surfaced on the website Deadspin, which posted a video Oct. 7 that included text messages and voicemails allegedly left by Favre for Sterger, including one in which he allegedly invites her to his hotel.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell determined that Favre was "not candid in several respects during the investigation" but "could not conclude" that

Favre violated the league's personal conduct policy based on the evidence he had, the league said in a statement Wednesday announcing the fine. Forensic analysis failed to establish that Favre sent the objectionable photographs to Sterger, the league said.

"Clearly, (the massage therapists) were just as dissatisfied with the NFL's decision as we were. Or lack of a decision, for that matter," Sterger's lawyer, Joseph Conway, said Monday. He wouldn't say whether Sterger was also planning a lawsuit.

Favre has consistently refused to answer reporters' questions about the allegations.

While being buffeted by questions about his behavior, Favre also has been battered by injuries to his ankle, chin, ribs, back, head and throwing shoulder—the one that forced the famously hardy 41-year-old quarterback to miss a start, against the Giants on Dec. 13.

He sat out Minnesota's loss to the Lions on Sunday because of a concussion and said the game would be his last. Fans have heard that before, however—he also retired in 2008 with the Green Bay Packers and 2009 with the Jets, only to return both times.

Browns look for coach 'to lead us to championship'

BEREA, Ohio (AP)—As Eric Mangini packed picture frames and two years of football into boxes, Browns president Mike Holmgren was already looking for his replacement.

One day after another lost season, the search was underway in Cleveland for a new coach, the one as Holmgren put it, "can eventually someday lead us to the championship. That is my only goal."

Attention Jon Gruden, John Fox, Jim Harbaugh, Marty Mornhinweg, Brad Childress and others: Holmgren may have you on his list.

For now, though, Holmgren doesn't have his own name on it. But that could change.

Granted a second season by Holmgren, Mangini was fired on Monday, dismissed less than two years after being hired by owner Randy Lerner, who was convinced he had found the next Bill Belichick. The Browns went 5-11 for the second straight season, and although they showed some significant progress under Mangini, it wasn't enough.

During a morning meeting, only hours after an embarrassing 41-9 home loss to Pittsburgh, Holmgren thanked Mangini for his efforts. Then, he told him his time was up.

"It's difficult," Holmgren said. "I've never had to do this before. I like the man a lot. But I want to win here. We want to win here. We did not win enough."

At 10:04 a.m., the Browns released a statement announcing the coaching change. By 11 a.m., Holmgren was sending request forms to NFL teams asking permission to speak with their coaches. Holmgren did not reveal names of any potential candidates.

His search will not be limited to those with pro experience or ones favoring a West Coast offense. And, he doesn't have a timetable to name Cleveland's fifth coach since 1999. Money, he said, is no object.

Only weeks ago, Holmgren hinted about a return to coaching. He hasn't ruled it out, but the 62-year-old with three Super Bowl visits on a sparkling 17-year Hall-of-Fame-worthy resume, insists he's enjoying his executive role. Still, the bug hasn't completely left, and Holmgren may coach again.

"I'll always be a coach," he said. "Heck, people in the building call me coach. To tell you right now that I would never coach again, whether it's here or any place, that probably wouldn't be honest. As of right now, I am the president of the Cleveland Browns and my job is to find the best coach available, the right coach for this job. That's what I am trying to do and that does not include me right now."

"I probably won't coach again, but I don't want to lie to you—ever."

Holmgren has not yet spoken with Fox, whose contract was not renewed in Carolina, or Gruden, the former Tampa Bay coach and ESPN

analyst who worked under Holmgren in San Francisco and Green Bay. Mornhinweg, Philadelphia's offensive coordinator, is also from the Holmgren coaching tree and a close friend. All are probable targets.

Interestingly, Holmgren, Fox, Gruden and Mornhinweg are all represented by the same agent, Bob LaMonte.

According to several reports, the Browns have contacted the New York Giants about talking to defensive coordinator Perry Fewell.

Holmgren and general manager Tom Heckert will serve as the Browns' point men in the search he described as "pretty wide. We're not limiting ourselves in any way."

If Holmgren can't land one of his preferred candidates, it's possible he will relocate his office and slide in as Cleveland's coach. It would be a seamless transition, but that's the backup plan. For now, Holmgren's entering his first coaching search, hoping it will be his last.

"I don't want to do this again," he said. "Historically, if you look at teams that don't have to do this very much, they've been successful. It's very, very important that we get this right."

The Browns haven't gotten it right with a coach since returning to the league; Mangini followed Chris Palmer, Butch Davis and Romeo Crennel on Cleveland's coaching carousel. The instability up top and lack of continuity perhaps best explains the Browns' 64-129 record and one playoff appearance since their rebirth in 1999.

Mangini's two seasons in Cleveland were marked by losing streaks, flickers of hope, key injuries and far too much drama for a franchise still looking for a foothold 12 years into its expansion era. The Browns didn't have any luck, either.

All three quarterbacks suffered high ankle sprains this season, with injuries to Jake Delhomme and Seneca Wallace pushing rookie Colt McCoy into the starting lineup at least one year early. McCoy was supposed sit and learn but he handled the assignment like a seasoned veteran, and when the Browns stunned New England on Nov. 7, it appeared Cleveland had arrived.

Instead, the upset only triggered a slide. The Browns went 2-6 down the stretch, losing their final four games. Cleveland struggled in close games, going 3-9 in tilts decided by 10 points or less. Sunday's loss dropped Mangini to 2-10 in the AFC North.

Holmgren was left with little choice but to cut ties with Mangini, who has two years left on a contract worth a reported \$8 million. Mangini's assistants remain under contract. Holmgren gave them the rest of this week off and will meet with the staff again next week. Defensive coordinator Rob Ryan may interview for the Panthers' open position.

2010 IT&E/ RBC Christmas Basketball Tournament

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Players of Rollers A pose with their runner-up trophy in the U15 division.



U12 runners-up Rollers B are all smiles after receiving their trophy.



U12 tournament MVP Kenji Abobo, left, and RBC coach Paul Camacho pose during the awards ceremony.



Melvin Deocares, right, receives his U12 Finals MVP trophy from RBC's Paul Camacho during the awards ceremony for the 2010 IT&E/ Rollers Basketball Club Christmas Basketball Tournament last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.



Complex's Jack Aranda, left, shows his U15 Finals MVP trophy and poses with RBC coach Paul Camacho.



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James, Wade power Heat to win over Bobcats

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Massage therapists sue Favre, Jets over texts

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28 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Minor pounds foe in U18 singles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School's Thea Minor put on a dominating performance in her first game in the girls U18 singles division of the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia.

She swept Victoria's Elisa Benz on with the CNMI junior netter losing only one point in the round-robin match en route to an impressive 6-1, 6-0 triumph yesterday at the Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club in Shepparton, Victoria.

Minor and Benz are in Group 2 of the U18 singles, along with Melbourne's Alana Dargham. Group 1 has D'Arcy Curtis-McDonald of Shepparton, Amanda Korinhona of the Solomon Islands, Georgina Jupp of Melbourne and Chloe McKenzie of Bend.

The Top 2 players in each
See MINOR on Page 26



Thea Minor, seen here waiting for the serve of sister, Theecel, during the Tan Holdings Classic in November 2010, downed her foe in the girls U18 singles division of a tournament in Shepparton, Australia.

Rivalry heats up early in UBA caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Corporate rivals IP&E and Mobil are headed to an early collision course, as they will play in one of the four games in the opening day of the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

IP&E, which owns Shell gas stations in the CNMI, and fellow oil company giant Mobil will debut in the 2011 sea-

son of the UBA caging in the fourth game at 8pm on Jan. 17. Pairings in the opening day of the league were determined via draws held last Monday night during the caging's mandatory technical meeting at the conference room of the Ada Gym.

Defending champion Prospects was given the automatic No. 1 draw after ruling the inaugural season the league, while the Hoopaholics took

See RIVALRY on Page 26



Advance X-Terminators' Jun Estolas drives against a phalanx of O'Aces defenders during last year's UBA caging. Estolas will play for Mobil this year and his team will duel rival IP&E Konflikt in the opening day of the men's league on Jan. 17.

Dolphins vs Manta Rays in MISO opener today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School and Saipan Southern High School will begin their title redemption bids today when they square off in the opening day of the 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League at the MHS Gymnasium.

Southern's junior varsity team won the 2008-2009 season of the league, but had its three-year reign in the MISO caging ending last season when the Rays lost to Kagman High School in the finals, 41-48.

The MHS Dolphins were also triumphant in the 2008-2009 season of the league, prevailing in the finals against Southern, 76-72. However, last season, the Dolphins did not even make it to the semifinals after bowing to Grace Christian Academy in the first round of the playoffs,



Saipan Southern High School's Melvin Cadiang fakes off the defense of Kagman High School's Ichitaro Faisao during their game in the varsity division of the MISO caging last season. The Rays will play their first game of the season against the Marianas High School Dolphins today.

42-47. Southern and Kagman eventually fought in the varsity finals with the Ayuyus sweeping the competition after a 66-56 win in the championship game.

Dolphins coach Jose Tumaquip is confident they will have a better finish this year, both in the varsity and junior varsity divisions.

"We've been practicing for more than a month and we have a lot of our former JV players moving up to the varsity team, so basically our players know each other well," said Tumaquip, who will handle both MHS teams.

"We will do well this season, as long as our players execute our game plan. The game against Southern will test how far we've gone through since we started training," the Dolphins mentor added.

Southern coach Eric Cooke agreed to Tumaquip that today's game will gauge each team's competitiveness.

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NMASA to hold election tomorrow

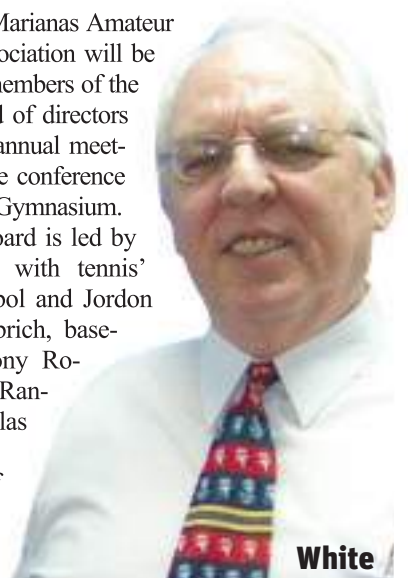


Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will be selecting members of the 2011 board of directors during its annual meeting tomorrow at 7pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The current NMASA board is led by president Michael White with tennis' Jeff Race, golf's Jess Wabol and Jordon Kosam, canoe's Gil Birnrich, baseball's Rose Igitol and Tony Rogolifoi, basketball's Elias Rangamar, and football's Ed Salas as members.

Besides the election of the new officers, the selection of top athletes

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White